



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1386

PRINTERS NO. 4070

PRIME SPONSOR: Phillips-Hill

### COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND         | FY 2018/19        | FY 2019/20 |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| General Fund | See Fiscal Impact |            |

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1386 amends the Public School Code concerning instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of the Education Department. It would take effect immediately.

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1386 amends the Public School Code by adding a new section concerning instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of the Department. It establishes new grade span and age levels for special education instructional certificates issued after December 31, 2021, by combining current special education certificates into one category.

Special education teaching certificates issued under current law will remain valid for the terms of the certificates. Those holding special education teaching certificates issued under current law will have the opportunity to expand the scope of those certificates under a process to be determined by the Department of Education.

The Department of Education (PDE) must, within 60 days of the effective date of this legislation, notify all PDE approved teacher education programs, all individuals enrolled in these programs, and all individuals holding an early childhood certificate under current law may, by attaining qualifying scores on the assessment made available by PDE, extend the grade span for the individual's early childhood certificate to include grades five and six. The Department must also include and maintain notice of the availability of the assessment on the Department website with other information describing certification requirements. In addition, the Department must create a notification form to inform an individual seeking an early childhood certificate that the individual may, by attaining qualifying scores on the assessment made available by PDE, extend the grade span for the individual's early childhood certificate to include grades five and six. A teacher preparation program must subsequently provide the form to all individuals seeking an early childhood certification.

By March 1, 2019, and each March 1 thereafter, PDE must issue a report concerning the numbers and types of teaching certificates issued annually by the Department since 2010. The detailed contents of the report are enumerated in the bill. The report must be issued to the House and Senate Education Committees and the State Board of Education, and posted on the Department website.

This legislation requires the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) to conduct a study and issue a report that analyzes the appropriateness of the fields of certification, including grade span and age

level limitations, in improving student outcomes; the creation or elimination of teaching certifications or endorsements; and national trends regarding grade span and age limitations of certifications. This report must be transmitted to the Governor and the Majority and Minority Chairpersons of the House and Senate Education Committees no later than June 1, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the changes to Pennsylvania's certification requirements in this legislation will necessitate revisions and updates to PDE's review process. This new certification process would start for certificates issued after December 31, 2021, in the middle of the 2021-22 fiscal year. Therefore, it is estimated any recurring staffing costs would begin in fiscal year 2021-22, and any one-time development costs would be incurred during the 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 fiscal years.

The Department estimates it may need three to four additional staff to manage the volume of applications for certification and re-certification that may be submitted. The Department also indicates a web-based application tool will need to be developed. This should take about 8 months at a one-time cost of approximately \$100,000. There could also be one-time costs of approximately \$50,000 for the development of program framework guidelines for the new certification programs.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 10, 2018

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*