



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2028

PRINTER'S NO. 2592

PRIME SPONSOR: Hohenstein

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	See fiscal impact

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 2028 amends the Public School Code to provide a potential funding source for the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program.

### ANALYSIS:

This bill allows the Department of Education to use up to \$300,000 annually in unexpended, unencumbered, or uncommitted funds to support the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program. The program helps school entities provide instruction to students on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities. Under current law, the department may use Federal, State and other money to the extent that it is made available for the program. In August 2023, the Shapiro administration issued a press release announcing the first awards (up to \$10,000 per year for three years) for ten school entities. The funding source for this initial round was federal IDEA funding.

The bill also changes a "shall" to a "may" regarding the department's responsibility to annually transfer up to \$300,000 in unexpended, unencumbered, or uncommitted funds to a restricted account supporting the Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program. This undersubscribed program provides grants to Intermediate Units to purchase and share telepresence equipment for the educational support of homebound students. The Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program restricted account had an available balance of \$944,560.19 on June 1, 2024, according to the May 2024 Status of Appropriations report.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 2028 may have a fiscal impact on commonwealth funds of up to \$300,000 in both fiscal year 2024/25 and fiscal year 2025/26, which are the last two years authorized for the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program. The potential cost, which is at the department's discretion, is not from a new or increased appropriation, but rather repurposed funds that may have otherwise lapsed back to the General Fund.

**PREPARED BY:** Sean Brandon, Assistant Executive Director  
House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** June 27, 2024

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