

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO.

Senate Bill 213

PRINTER'S NO.

754

AMOUNT

\$6,000 Annually

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

Feb. 19, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robbins

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to EDUCATION, Feb. 19, 2009

Reported as amended, March 24, 2009

First consideration, March 24, 2009

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 30, 2009

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 213 establishes a freestanding act authorizing the Commonwealth to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove impediments to education success experienced by children of military personnel due to frequent moves by their parents.

The bill includes provisions to facilitate transfer of records; timely enrollment; course placement; assessment, qualification for educational programs and extracurricular activities; and graduation of children of military personnel.

The legislation requires the state to create a nine member State Council or use an existing body to coordinate the provisions of the compact among government agencies, local education agencies and military installations. It also requires the Governor to appoint a compact commissioner to represent the Commonwealth on the Interstate Compact Commission. The commissioner shall not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The Interstate Compact Commission is authorized to levy an annual assessment upon member states to pay its operating expenses.

Any state laws conflicting with the compact are superseded and all acts of the commission are binding on member states.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Interstate Compact Commission has determined the annual assessment to states to be \$1 per active military duty child as reported annually by the Defense Manpower Data Center. Based on previous reports, approximately 3,000 eligible children reside in the Commonwealth.

It is estimated that Pennsylvania's commissioner to the Interstate Compact Commission's expenses should not exceed \$2,500 annually.

The Department of Education, Department of State and local education agencies may incur minimal expenses related to the coordination and adherence to the provisions of the compact, which can be borne within their existing operating budgets.