

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 360

PRINTER'S NO. 1288

AMOUNT

\$10,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 31, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mensch

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to EDUCATION, Jan. 31, 2013
Reported as amended, Feb. 12, 2013
First consideration, Feb. 12, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 8, 2013
Re-reported as amended, June 25, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 360 establishes the Pennsylvania Community College Affordability Advisory Council within the Department of Education to examine and make recommendations regarding the viability and sustainability of the current community college funding model, accessibility of services, long-term affordability and accessibility, and various components of the community college mission, including open access and workforce development.

The advisory council is to be composed of the following members: (1) the Secretary of Education; (2) the Secretary of Labor and Industry; (3) six representatives of community colleges appointed by the Pennsylvania Commission on Community Colleges; (4) two members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore; (5) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker; (6) one county commissioner from a county that sponsors a community college appointed by Governor; (7) one member of a school board from a school district that sponsors a community college appointed by Governor; (8) two representatives from the business community appointed by the Governor; (9) two community college students appointed by the Governor; and, (10) two community college faculty members appointed by the Governor.

The bill requires the advisory council to issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly 30 days before the expiration of the act. Provides that advisory council members shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties. Requires the Department of Education to provide administrative support, office space, and any other technical assistance as required by the advisory council to carry out its duties.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The act is scheduled to expire November 30, 2014, unless reenacted sooner.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Education's responsibilities to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the advisory council can be accomplished with existing staff within its existing General Government Operations budget. Costs related to reimbursing advisory council members for travel and necessary expense are estimated to be \$10,000.