

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1159

PRINTER NO. 1595

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 14, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Dinniman

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1159 establishes a new Section 124 (ESSA State Plan Review) in the Public School Code to provide for a legislative review of the State plan required under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is replacing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

The legislation requires the Department of Education to consult with the majority and minority chairmen of the Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees throughout the development of the various aspects of the State plan required under ESSA, including, but not limited to the following: (1) student academic assessments and any alternatives to or uses of student academic assessments; (2) teacher evaluations; (3) low-performing school assessment and improvement; (4) vocational-career education academic assessments and standards; and (5) school performance measures.

Requires the Department to provide the majority and minority chairmen of the Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees the following information: (1) monthly updates during development of the State plan; (2) electronic copies of materials utilized in the development of the State plan upon request; (3) any information released to the public 24 hours prior to its release, including the State plan made available for public comment; (4) a summary of revisions the State plan makes to the ESEA waiver that affect statute, regulation or policy; (5) a summary of any revisions made to the State plan; and (6) a copy of the completed State plan.

Requires a summary of the completed State plan to be proposed as a resolution and referred to the Education Committee in the Senate and the Education Committee in the House of Representatives and for the committees to take action on the resolution within 30 calendar days. Requires that upon approval or disapproval by the committees, the resolution be reported to the full body for consideration. Requires the resolution to be placed on the calendar in the Senate and House of Representatives and requires each body to take action within 10 legislative days. Requires the Department to submit the plan to the United State Secretary of Education upon approval or disapproval by the Senate and the House of Representatives. Requires the votes and all remarks regarding the consideration of the resolution contained in the legislative record be included in the submission.

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Prohibits the Department of Education from submitting the State plan unless final disposition has occurred in Senate and House of Representatives.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1159 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. The development of the State plan by the Department of Education and review and consideration of the State plan by the General Assembly are within each entities normal governmental scope of responsibilities and can be accomplished within their existing operating budgets.