

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 2787

**PRINTER NO.** 4334

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

August 18, 2020

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Reese

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 2787 establishes Section 1416.1 (Precautions Against the Spread of COVID-19) and Section 1501.10 (Sports and Extracurricular Activities During COVID-19 Pandemic) in the Public School Code to provide the governing body of a school entity with the exclusive authority to determine whether to hold sports and other in-person extracurricular activities.

The legislation requires a school entity to develop an athletic, health and safety plan addressing school sports and other in-person extracurricular activities during the 2020-21 school year. The plan must include the following:

- Safety protocols for permitting visitors and spectators to attend sports and other in-person extracurricular activities;
- Limits on gatherings for indoor and outdoor sports and in-person extracurricular activities to ensure social distancing;
- Protocols for sports consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Considerations for Youth Sports;
- Methods of ensuring that social distancing and other safety measures are in place for students, staff and spectators; and
- Rules that will be enforced to ensure requirements which prohibit participation by persons having any form of transmissible COVID-19 are met.

The legislation requires a school entity to post its athletic, health and safety plan on its publicly accessible internet website and to submit the plan to the Department of Education.

The legislation also provides that no person having COVID-19 in a transmissible stage may be permitted inside a school entity or participate in any sports or extracurricular activities, and the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Education may issue further guidance to school entities to implement this provision.

A school entity is defined as a school district, nonpublic school, intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

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The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of House Bill 2787 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative responsibilities delegated to the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Education to develop guidance and collect athletic, health and safety plans pose minimal expense and can be accommodated within the general government operations budgets of the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

In addition, the cost to school entities to develop, post and adhere to athletic, health and safety plans should be minimal and can be accomplished within their existing operating budgets.