

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1216

PRINTER NO. 1784

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 19, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Langerholc

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1216 establishes a new Section 1207.4 (Special Provisions Applicable to 2020-2021 School Year) in the Public School Code to provide the Secretary of Education (secretary) with the authority to address disruptions to teacher training and certification caused by the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

Specifically, the legislation authorizes the secretary to do the following:

- Waive the requirement for an undergraduate student to satisfactorily complete the assessment of basic skills for progression in teacher education programs during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Issue a temporary professional certificate to an educator who has completed a preparation program and meets all of the requirements for certification except the completion of assessments because the assessments were cancelled or could not be scheduled.
- Issue an exceptional case permit for a professional employee who is unable to complete the assessment requirements for conversion from a Level I certificate to a Level II certificate because the assessments were cancelled or could not be scheduled.
- Issue a temporary certificate to an individual who is unable to complete the appropriate subject matter test for areas other than health and physical education, cooperative education, all special education areas and additional areas as may be determined by the Department of Education (department) when the relevant assessment has been canceled or could not be scheduled.
- Provides for the deadline for a paraprofessional to satisfy staff development activity hour requirements to be extended until June 30, 2021.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately, and the provisions of the legislation remain in effect until June 30, 2021.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1216 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative duties related to issuing teacher certificates and permits as provided in the legislation are routine to the Department of Education's normal operations and can be accomplished within its current operating budget and through the normal collection of fees to support its teacher certification responsibilities.

For information purposes, the Interim Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund budget includes \$10,710,000 for the department's General Government Operations, and it is estimated that the department will collect \$1,679,000 from fees for teacher certification in Fiscal Year 2020-21.