

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 365

PRINTER NO. 3568

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 3, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Harkins

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 365 amends several sections of the Public School Code to replace and remove antiquated language with current, more appropriate terms of art. The changes are as follows:

- Replaces “physically and mentally handicapped” with “children with physical or mental disabilities”;
- Replaces “handicapped and institutionalized” with “physical or mental disabilities”;
- Replaces “defects” with “impairments”;
- Replaces “bad” with “inappropriate”;
- Replaces “mentally retarded” with “intellectually disabled”;
- Replaces “emotional disturbance” with “emotional disability”;
- Replaces “handicapped” with “burdened”; and
- Removes the term “crippled”.

The legislation also amends Section 1376.1 to allocate \$1,000,000 from the Fiscal Year 2022-23 appropriation for the Chartered Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for capital-related costs and deferred maintenance to be divided equally between each of the four chartered schools. Similar language included in the Fiscal Code (Act 54 of 2022) to allocate these funds is also repealed as it erroneously referenced approved private schools.

The act is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 365 related to the terms of art will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the language has no material impact other than replacing antiquated terms with current more appropriate terms of art.

The provisions related to the allocation of funds from the appropriation for Charter Schools for the Deaf and Blind for capital-related costs and deferred maintenance will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the funds were already appropriated as part of the General Appropriation Act of 2022.