

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 2383

**PRINTER NO.** 3666

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 5, 2024

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Solomon

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 2383 establishes the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program as a freestanding act to provide opportunities for older adults with educational and professional skills and knowledge to mentor students before, during and after school.

The legislation requires the Department of Education (department), in consultation with the State Board of Education and Department of Aging, to the extent that funding is made available, to develop guidelines for the program that utilize the education and professional knowledge of older adult mentor volunteers (volunteers) to enhance student experiences which include: (1) the roles of school entities and intermediate units in program implementation and evaluation; (2) policies and procedures for operation of the program; (3) identification of methods for use in fostering participation in the program; and (4) development and dissemination of application forms.

The legislation requires the department in coordination with intermediate units, to the extent that funding is made available, to develop and maintain a central registry of volunteers to facilitate matching volunteers with students.

The legislation requires intermediate units, school entities and area agencies on aging to furnish program applications to older adults upon request. It provides for an individual to apply electronically through the website of the department and the Department of Aging. It requires a school entity, or a state or local agency that receives an application to forward it to the intermediate unit that represents the school entity or school entities for which the applicant proposes to be a volunteer for review and processing.

The legislation provides for volunteers to apply to participate in the program by submitting an application to an intermediate unit that indicates the school entity or school entities for which the applicant proposes to volunteer.

The legislation requires volunteers to comply with the provisions contained in Title 23 Section 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children), including background checks. It requires volunteers to comply with the policies of the school entity and with the requirements of 23 PA.C.S. Section 6344.3 (G) (1) (relating to continued employment or participation in program, activity or service). It also

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requires volunteers to certify they have reviewed and will comply with applicable guidelines and policies.

The legislation requires the department to undertake efforts to make older adults, students and school entities aware of the program.

The legislation requires a school entity that uses the services of volunteers to identify students that may benefit from the program and to link volunteers with students according to academic interests, professional pursuits, hobbies and skills. It also requires a school entity to notify and obtain consent from a parent or guardian prior to linking a student with a volunteer.

The legislation defines "older adult" and as individual who is 55 years of age or older.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of House Bill 2383 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The legislation conditions the program's operations on funding being made available for it.