

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 757

PRINTER NO. 1058

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Various Funds

DATE INTRODUCED

June 5, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Stefano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 757 amends the Fiscal Code to correct a reference to allow \$1,000,000 included in 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 (4) chartered schools.

Fiscal Impact: This provision will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the funds were already appropriated as part of the General Appropriation Act of 2022.

Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship

This bill establishes the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program within the State Treasury (Treasury) to provide scholarships to help students pay tuition, school-related fees and special education services fees to attend a nonpublic school beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Scholarship awards under the program are as follows:

- \$2,500 for a student in half-day kindergarten;
- \$5,000 for a student in full-day kindergarten through grade 8;
- \$10,000 for a student in grade 9 through grade 12; and
- \$15,000 for a student with special needs regardless of grade level.

To be eligible for the program, a student must be a Commonwealth resident, reside within the attendance boundary of a low-achieving school and be living in a household with a household income below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines and satisfy one of the following criteria: (1) attended a public school in this Commonwealth in the preceding school year; (2) received a scholarship from the program in the preceding school year; or (3) will attend kindergarten for the first time in the next school year.

Fiscal Impact: The enactment of this provision will cost the Commonwealth \$103,693,000 million in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The amount includes \$100,000,000, which is required to be deposited in the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Fund from Personal Income Tax revenues annually, and the costs to administer the program, which Treasury estimates to be \$3,693,000 assuming full utilization of the scholarships.

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Confidential Information

This bill updates Section 731 to increase transparency of the Neighborhood Improvement Zone program by indicating information gained as a result of returns, reports, correspondence, claims, investigations, certifications or verifications filed under the program shall not be deemed confidential.

Fiscal Impact: This provision will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

Education Improvement Tax Credit

This bill increases the total amount of tax credits available for the Education Improvement Tax Credit program by \$150 million.

Fiscal Impact: This change will reduce General Fund revenue for Fiscal Year 2023-24 by \$150 million.