

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1153

PRINTER NO. 1558

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 26, 2024

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Pennycuik

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1153 establishes a new Section 2022-A (Educational Opportunities for Foster and Adopted Children) in the Public School Code to provide for eligible nonresident foster and adoptive youth to receive a fostering independence waiver (waiver) from tuition and mandatory fees to attend a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) university for up to five years, whether consecutive or not or until the individual is 26 years old, whichever occurs first.

The legislation provides that to be eligible for a waiver, a nonresident student must be eligible for a federal Chafee Education and Training Grant, identify as a youth who experienced foster care or was adopted after 16 years of age and apply for federal and state grants.

The legislation requires each university to annually report to PASSHE the number of students who enroll and receive a fostering independence waiver and for PASSHE to report the information to the Governor, Department of Education, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

The legislation defines the fostering independence waiver as an amount equal to the waiver of tuition and mandatory fees after the subtraction of the amount of federal and state grants and scholarships the nonresident receives.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1153 will have no significant fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. To the extent that nonresident foster and adoptive youth choose to attend a PASSHE university, additional revenue from tuition, mandatory fees and housing charges will accrue to PASSHE.

For information purposes, the average cost for tuition (\$14,088) and fees (\$3,312) for a nonresident at a PASSHE university is \$17,400. Assuming a nonresident student is eligible for a fostering independence waiver and receives the maximum federal Pell

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Grant (\$7,395) and a federal Chafee Education and Training Grant (\$5,000) totaling \$12,395, the legislation would provide for the fostering independence waiver of \$5,005 to offset tuition and mandatory fees.