



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2338

PRINTERS NO. 3963

PRIME SPONSOR: Gabler

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 2338 creates a freestanding act to be known as the Student Protection Act. It would take effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2018.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 2338 provides for student protection during the transition of a postsecondary education institution to a new accreditor if the United States Department of Education discontinues its recognition of the institution's national accrediting agency. Students will remain eligible for all state financial assistance through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), and any other state agency through which such student may be eligible for assistance, as long as the student meets all other qualifications. PHEAA, when advancing financial assistance funds during a school's transition to new accreditation, may follow the United States Department of Education's issuance of Federal Title IV financial assistance, along with any other terms and conditions applied during this transition. In addition, students will remain eligible for State licensure, certification or any other professional credential for which the student has trained, provided the student meets all other qualifications and passes any exams or assessments necessary for such licensure, certification or credential. These protections will remain in effect for 18 months, or until new accreditation is received if PHEAA and other state agencies deem extension of the protections to be in the best interest of students.

This legislation also requires that institutions enrolling students who receive PHEAA grants must provide certain disclosures to those students when the institutions are undergoing a transition in their accreditation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 17, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.