

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.**

Senate Bill 624

**PRINTER'S NO.**

1195

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 16, 2009

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Gordner

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to EDUCATION, March 16, 2009

Reported as amended, April 21, 2009

First consideration, April 21, 2009

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 28, 2009

Re-reported as amended, June 22, 2009

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 624 amends the Public School Code of 1949, Section 511(a) by allowing nonpublic students access to public school extracurricular activities if the activities are not offered by the private or nonpublic school.

The bill specifies that nonpublic students may only seek involvement in extracurricular activities in the school district where they reside. The extracurricular activities can include exercises, athletics, or games of any kind, school publications, debating, forensic, dramatic, musical, and other activities that are offered at the public school.

The legislation clarifies that nonpublic students include those who attend a charter, cyber charter, private or nonpublic school, or those who participate in a home education program.

Students from a private or nonpublic school would be subject to the same rules of extracurricular activities that the public school students must abide by such as eligibility criteria, try-out criteria, compliance

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with all policies, rules, and regulations, as well as completion of physical examinations or medical texts required for participation.

The bill also prohibits students from being excluded from participating in activities that are part of the regular school curriculum or considered as credit toward graduation requirements.

The bill would take effect 60 days after its enactment.

At present, Section 1327.1 (Home Education Program) of the Public School Code contains provisions which allow for home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. School districts may incur additional costs related to allowing nonpublic students to participate in extracurricular activities.