

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1252

PRINTER NO. 2012

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

August 11, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Dinniman

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1252 establishes a new Section 923.4-A (Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Programs) in the Public School Code to allow intermediate units to establish retired volunteer educator tutor programs for the school districts assigned to the intermediate unit to provide for individualized tutoring sessions by retired volunteer educators for students during a mandated school closure under a disaster emergency.

The legislation is intended to provide assistance to students attending a school district with limited technology resources and students that have been identified as having difficulty with online or distance learning.

The legislation requires tutoring sessions to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means of communication with retired volunteer educators assisting students who are identified by the school district. It provides that the parent or guardian of the student may monitor the tutoring session with the student.

The legislation requires the Department of Education (department) to collaborate and guide the intermediate units or school districts in the development and replication of a model program. It also requires the department, intermediate units and school districts to collaborate to evaluate and share information on the impact of the program and to investigate methods to virtually provide social wraparound services and school guidance counseling services.

The legislation provides that no student or school district shall be required to utilize or participate in a retired volunteer educator program. Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the authority of a school entity from developing and implementing similar volunteer tutoring programs.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

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The enactment of Senate Bill 1252 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The responsibilities delegated to the Department of Education to provide assistance to intermediate units and school districts in the development of a model retired volunteer education tutor program, to share information regarding the program and to investigate methods to virtually provide social wraparound services and school guidance counseling services are within its scope of expertise and can be accomplished within its existing general government operating budget. For information purposes, the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Interim General Fund Budget includes \$10,710,000 for the department's general government operations.

Intermediate units and school districts that choose to offer model retired volunteer education tutor programs will likely experience minor administrative costs to establish, coordinate and maintain the programs.