

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 290

PRINTER NO. 264

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 31, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mastriano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 290 establishes a new Section 1555 (Moment of silence on September 11 anniversary) in the Public School Code to require school entities to conduct a moment of silence during instructional hours for students and faculty to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001, as remembrance for the individuals who lost their lives or were wounded during the terrorist attacks.

The legislation requires the Department of Education (department) to establish a model curriculum for instruction in the events and significance of September 11, 2001, no later than 12 months after the effective date of the legislation. It specifies that the model curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics: (1) the historical context of terrorism; (2) the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; (3) the American recovery and response to the attacks; and (4) the global challenges and consequences in a post-September 11 world.

The legislation requires the department to make the model curriculum, materials and other resources regarding the events and significance of September 11, 2001, available on its publicly accessible internet website for voluntary use by school entities. It also provides that nothing in the legislation shall be construed to require a school entity or nonpublic school to implement, adopt or use curriculum, materials and other resources made available by the department under the legislation.

The legislation defines "school entity" as a school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The provisions contained in Senate Bill 290 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Education has indicated that the provisions requiring it to develop a model curriculum and to post the curriculum, materials and other resources on its website will have no significant cost and can be accomplished

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with its existing general government operations budget as information pertinent to the subject is readily available. For information purposes, the department's Fiscal Year 2022-23 general government operations budget is \$36,404,000.