



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 157

PRINTERS NO. 2289

PRIME SPONSOR: Fontana

### COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND         | FY 2011/12 | FY 2012/13 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$0        | \$9,000    |

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 157 is a freestanding act that establishes a task force on homeless children's education. It would take effect in 60 days and expire two years after its effective date.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation establishes, within the Department of Education, a task force on the education of homeless children. The task force is required to study the educational needs of homeless children and make a report.

The task force is composed of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Public Welfare, and fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of Education representing local agencies assisting homeless children, public schools, intermediate units and social service and advocacy organizations with experience working with homeless children and education issues. The task force must meet quarterly and members may not to be compensated but can be reimbursed for necessary travel and other reasonable expenses.

The task force study must include a demographic study of homeless parents and youth; an assessment of the difficulties of serving homeless students; an assessment of barriers to serving the needs of homeless youth; an assessment of successful strategies for serving homeless students; an assessment of the relationship between homeless shelters and school personnel and effective protocols to serve homeless students; an assessment of methods for accurate identification and counting of homeless students in pre-k through 12th grade; and, recommendations regarding data currently collected by the Department of Education that could be disaggregated on an ongoing basis in regard to homeless children. If the Department of Education has already collected the data or information required by this report, the task force may incorporate that data or information into the report. The task force must present this report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 18 months of the enactment of this act.

The Department of Education must provide administrative support, office space and any other technical assistance required by the task force to carry out its duties under this act. This includes access to all reports and data required by the Federal Government to comply with Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation will have only a minimal impact on Commonwealth funds. It is estimated that reimbursements for board travel and other expenses will amount to approximately \$9,000 annually. Costs related to providing administrative and technical support can be accomplished within the Department of Education's existing budget.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 18, 2012

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