



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 159

PRINTERS NO. 440

PRIME SPONSOR: Robbins

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$2,500

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 159 is a freestanding piece of legislation known as the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act. It would take effect immediately upon enactment.

ANALYSIS: This legislation establishes a freestanding act authorizing the Commonwealth to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove impediments to educational success experienced by children of military personnel due to frequent moves by their parents.

The bill includes provisions to facilitate transfer of records; timely enrollment; course placement; assessment; qualification for educational programs and extracurricular activities; and, graduation of children of military personnel.

It requires the state to create a nine member State Council or use an existing body to coordinate the provisions of the compact among government agencies, local education agencies and military installations.

It requires the Governor to appoint a compact commissioner to represent the Commonwealth on the Interstate Compact Commission. The commissioner shall not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses.

It authorizes the Interstate Compact Commission to levy an annual assessment upon member states to pay its operating expenses.

It provides that any state laws conflicting with the compact are superseded to the extent that they conflict and all acts of the commission are binding on member states.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Interstate Compact Commission has determined the annual assessment to states to be \$1 per child with a parent in active duty military service, as reported annually by the Defense Manpower Data Center. Based on previous reports, approximately 2,500 eligible children reside in the Commonwealth.

The Interstate Compact Commission has indicated it will pay for expenses related to travel and lodging for the compact commissioner to attend Interstate Compact Commission meetings from its annual assessments.

The Department of Education, Department of State and local education agencies may incur minimal expenses related to the coordination and adherence to the provisions of the compact, which can be borne within their existing operating budgets.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 24, 2012

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