



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 198

PRINTERS NO. 2210

PRIME SPONSOR: Neilson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 198 amends the Public School Code concerning a dyslexia screening pilot program. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation would establish a Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program within the Department of Education. The overall purpose of the program is to provide evidence-based early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. Additionally, it would help evaluate the effectiveness of early reading assistance programs for children with risk factors for dyslexia and evaluate whether those programs can reduce future special education costs. Through the pilot program, the Department will select at least three school districts to participate. To be considered, a school district must submit a proposal to the Department identifying an evidence-based method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other risk factors for dyslexia. The district must also demonstrate it has funding available for the program. During the third year of the program, the Education Secretary would submit a report to the General Assembly containing an evaluation of the program, including recommendations to continue, expand or make changes.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill requires the Department to apply for Federal, private and other non-State funds and use available State funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the pilot program. However, it does not compel the Department to establish the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program if funds are not available.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 23, 2013

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