



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1013

PRINTERS NO. 4174

PRIME SPONSOR: Gillen

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1013 amends the Public School Code concerning home education programs. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation makes several changes to the section of the Public School Code concerning home education programs. It provides that a high school diploma awarded by the supervisor of a home education program or an approved diploma-granting organization shall be considered as having all the rights and privileges afforded by the Commonwealth, a Commonwealth or local agency, including the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, a political subdivision, and an authority or instrumentality of the Commonwealth or a political subdivision to a high school diploma awarded under this act, subject to the certain criteria enumerated in the bill.

House Bill 1013 eliminates the requirement that a home school supervisor submit all program documentation to the superintendent of the student's home school district. In place of that requirement a home school supervisor must submit certification that education curriculum standards have been met. The certification must be provided to the school superintendent by June 30 of each year. If the certification is past due, the school superintendent must send a letter to the home school supervisor requiring that the certification be submitted within 10 days. The board of school directors would provide for a hearing if the certification is not submitted to the superintendent within 10 days.

The bill authorizes school district superintendents to request certification and evaluation from a home school supervisor when there is a reasonable belief that educational curriculum standards are not being met. The evaluation must be submitted within 30 days after receiving a request from a superintendent. The board of school directors would provide for a hearing if the evaluation is not submitted to the superintendent within 30 days. Decisions of an examiner may be appealed to the court of common pleas. If the hearing examiner finds that the home education program is out of compliance, the student would be enrolled in a public or non-public school. The home education program would be allowed to continue during the time of appeal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 16, 2014

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