



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1559

PRINTERS NO. 3363

PRIME SPONSOR: Farina

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: House Bill 1559 amends the School Code concerning youth suicide awareness and prevention and child exploitation awareness education. It would take effect July 1, 2014 or immediately, whichever is later.

ANALYSIS: Under this legislation school entities may adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and education programs for youth suicide awareness and prevention and child exploitation awareness education, in accordance with guidelines established in the legislation. In addition, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all professional development plans submitted by a school entity to the Secretary of Education for approval must include four hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention and four hours of training in child exploitation awareness. In the case of suicide awareness and prevention, this training must occur every five years for professional educators instructing students in any of grades six through twelve, and may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional education requirements. In the case of child exploitation awareness, this training must occur every five years for professional educators instructing students in kindergarten or any of grades one through eight.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this legislation, the Department of Education, in conjunction with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in the Commonwealth, must:

1. Develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and post it on the Department's website;
2. Develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention curriculum and make the curriculum available to all school entities, including nonpublic schools;
3. Compile, develop and post on the Department's website recommended guidelines and educational materials for the professional development mentioned above.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this legislation, the Department of Education, through its Office of Safe Schools and in consultation with at least one organization addressing child exploitation, must:

1. Develop and post on its website model guidelines a school entity may use in developing a child exploitation awareness education program;
2. Compile or develop age-appropriate educational materials regarding child exploitation awareness and make the materials available to all school entities, including nonpublic schools;
3. Compile, develop and post on its website recommended guidelines and educational materials for the professional development mentioned above.

This legislation also requires the State Board of Education to conduct studies on both youth suicide awareness and prevention programs and child exploitation awareness education programs in Commonwealth schools no later than November 30, 2017. The studies must be conducted in accordance with guidelines established in the legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. In developing the model policies and student and professional development curriculums pursuant to this legislation, the Department of Education is permitted to use materials that are already publically available. It is estimated this development can be accomplished within the Department of Education's existing operating budget.

The requirements of this legislation should also not have a significant fiscal impact on public schools. The adoption of a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy, and the incorporation of educational programs for youth suicide awareness and prevention and child exploitation awareness into school curriculums is voluntary on the part of school districts. The only requirement is that school districts incorporate education on these topics into professional development that is already required, and the materials and training on this will be available from the Department of Education at little to no cost.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 9, 2014

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