



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1559

PRINTERS NO. 3709

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 in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: Under this legislation school entities must adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and education programs for youth suicide awareness and prevention, in accordance with guidelines established in the legislation. In addition, beginning with the 2015-16 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. 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.

The Department of Education (PDE), 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, as well as recommended resources and age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide awareness and prevention.

Under this legislation school entities may develop an age-appropriate child exploitation awareness education program and incorporate it into the existing curriculum for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The school may use a model curriculum developed by PDE. In addition, beginning with the 2015-16 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 child exploitation awareness. This training may occur every five years for professional educators instructing students in kindergarten or any of grades one through eight,

and may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional education requirements.

The Department of Education, in consultation with at least one organization addressing child exploitation, must:

1. Develop a model child exploitation awareness curriculum, which may include materials already publically available, and make it available to all school entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools;
2. Compile, develop and post on its website recommended guidelines and educational materials for the professional development mentioned above.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. In developing the model polices 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 resources for the adoption of a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy, and the incorporation of educational programs for youth suicide awareness and prevention into school curriculums are widely available at little to no cost to school entities.

School districts must incorporate education on youth suicide awareness and prevention into existing professional development programs. The materials and training to do so will be available from the Department of Education at little to no cost.

The development of a child exploitation awareness program and its incorporation into existing curriculum is voluntary on the part of school districts, as is the inclusion of training in child exploitation awareness in professional development for a school district's employees.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 16, 2014

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