



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1738

PRINTERS NO. 2878

PRIME SPONSOR: O'Neill

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1738 amends the Public School Code concerning the establishment of a basic education funding commission. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation adds a new Section 123 to the Public School Code, which establishes a Basic Education Funding Commission to review and make recommendations related to basic education funding. The Commission will consist of 15 members, 12 from the General Assembly and three from the Governor's administration. The members will not receive compensation for their service on the Commission, only reimbursement for necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their duties on the Commission. The General Assembly will provide administrative support, meeting space, and other assistance to the Commission and the Department of Education will provide data, research, and other information to the Commission.

The commission must develop a basic education funding formula and identify factors that may be used to determine the distribution of basic education funding among the school districts in the Commonwealth. A list of factors the Commission may consider is included in the legislation. The Commission may consider other factors related to the distribution of basic education funding as well.

In carrying out its duty to develop a basic education formula, the Commission may consult experts, receive input from the various sectors of public education, hold public hearings in different regions of the state, and review and consider education funding formulas and factors used in other states.

The Commission must issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly not later than one year after the effective date of this legislation. The Commission must also develop a proposed basic education funding formula, and draft proposed regulations and legislation based upon its findings.

The basic education formula developed by the Commission shall not go into effect unless the formula is approved by an act of the General Assembly enacted after the effective date of this legislation.

After the issuance of its initial report, the Commission will be reconstituted every five years to again review and make recommendations concerning basic education funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The operation of the Commission is expected to have only a minimal impact on Commonwealth funds that can be absorbed within the operating budgets of the General Assembly and PDE.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 15, 2014

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