



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

PRINTERS NO. 115

PRIME SPONSOR: Barrar

### COST / (SAVINGS)

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

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 131, Printer's Number 115, amends Act 287 of 1982 to provide in-state tuition rates at community colleges and state related/ state-owned institutions for veterans, their spouses and dependent children. This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Act 287 of 1982, which currently provides in-state tuition to active military, their dependents and civilian personnel stationed, assigned or transferred to Pennsylvania, with the following changes:

- The term "resident" or "residency" shall also include veterans, their spouses and dependent children who do not currently reside in Pennsylvania attending a state-related, state-owned institution of higher learning or community college;
- Veterans, their spouses and dependent children who are admitted to a state-related, state-owned institution of higher learning or community college are charged the respective in-state tuition or local sponsor rate on the first day of the semester or term;
- A community college, State-related or State-owned institution shall charge resident tuition rates to any active military personnel and their dependents taking online courses or receiving other education services online or other electronic means.

Additional changes include new definitions for "local sponsor," "local sponsor rate" and "member of a local sponsor" as per the Public School Code (Act 14 of 1949). The definition of "veteran" is also amended to provide that in-state tuition benefits are applicable to those veterans who qualify for benefits under 10 U.S.C. CHS. 1606 (relating to educational assistance for members of the selected reserve) and 1607 (relating to educational assistance reserve component members supporting contingency operations and certain other operations) and 38 U.S.C. CHS. 30 (relating to all-volunteer force educational assistance program), 31 (relating to training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities) and 33 (relating to post-9/11 educational assistance).

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this bill will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The legislation may impact tuition revenue to state-related universities, State System universities, and community colleges. Those institutions could receive less tuition revenue to the extent that individuals who would have attended without this incentive, will now pay less. However, by lowering the tuition charge for veterans, their spouses and dependent children who do not currently reside in Pennsylvania, it may attract additional tuition revenue from these individuals who would not have attended without this incentive.

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**DATE:** February 2, 2015

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