



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 158

PRINTERS NO. 2721

PRIME SPONSOR: Peifer

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 158 amends the School Code concerning criminal histories of employees and prospective employees, and the declaration of weather emergencies. Effective dates would vary by provision.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 158 makes several changes to the School Code concerning criminal history background checks. Under current law, prospective school district employees must submit with their employment applications, state and federal criminal history background clearances that are not more than one year old at the time of employment. House Bill 158 would extend that to not more than five years old. House Bill 158 also requires school employees and independent contractors to provide school administrators with updated criminal history records every five years, requires individuals who previously were not required to provide such reports to provide them by December 15, 2015, and allows an administrator to accept records that are not more than five years old where the applicant provides the administrator with a report stating the individual has not been disqualified from employment due to conviction of certain offenses. These changes align the criminal history background clearance requirements for school employees with the Child Protective Services Law.

House Bill 158 also adds a new section to the School Code giving the Secretary of Education the power to declare a weather emergency on a school entity, charter school entity, county, or statewide basis. This would provide the school entities or charter school entities included in the declaration greater flexibility in scheduling to meet the 180 instructional day requirement without jeopardizing any of their payments or reimbursements from the state.

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

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 27, 2016

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