



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 224

PRINTERS NO. 214

PRIME SPONSOR: Christiana

### COST / (SAVINGS)

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

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 224 is free standing legislation that creates the Public School Web Accountability and Transparency (School WATCH) Act. It would take effect immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation seeks to improve access to school financial data in the Commonwealth using the internet. It requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to post on its internet website the data from annual financial statements and final adopted budgets of school districts, charter schools, regional charter schools, cyber charter schools, and area vocational-technical schools, to the extent the information is available to the Department.

No public school entity will be required to provide any additional information not specifically required as of the effective date of the legislation, and no public school entity shall be required to provide additional information beyond the information required to be provided by any other public school entity.

The Department is required to provide a link to the public school entity's fiscal information from the School Performance Profile the Department compiles annually for each public school entity. This must be done within 90 days of the effective date of this legislation and by May 31 of each year thereafter.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Department of Education already complies with the requirements of HB 224, so its enactment should have no additional fiscal impact on the Department. Enactment of this legislation will ensure the Department continues to maintain this information on its website.

The legislation states that only information already submitted to PDE can be required for posting, so it should impose no additional costs on public school entities.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** February 11, 2015

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