



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

PRINTERS NO. 3692

PRIME SPONSOR: Roebuck

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact" below.	

SUMMARY: House Bill 512 amends the Public School Code concerning transfers of credits between institutions of higher education. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation requires public institutions of higher education to adopt and make public uniform standards for determining and awarding academic credit for prior learning. This includes college-level credit granted toward the award of a degree or certificate for learning that can be demonstrated, through various means of assessment, to be the equivalent of learning gained through formal collegiate instruction. The means of assessment include Advanced Placement Exams, International Baccalaureate Exams, College-Level Examination Program Exams, and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.

The standards will be developed by public institutions through their work on the existing Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee. The public institutions involved include the universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), Pennsylvania's Community Colleges, and other Pennsylvania colleges and universities that choose to participate. Reporting requirements concerning these standards are added to the duties of the Committee as well.

FISCAL IMPACT: The provisions of House Bill 512 may result in some increased costs to Pennsylvania's Community Colleges associated with the data and reporting requirements. At this time, it is not possible to estimate these costs, as they will depend on the details of the reporting system specified by the Department of Education after enactment.

The State System of Higher Education indicates this bill would have a fiscal impact on the System. It would be necessary to assess existing practices and establish methods, policies, and procedures for assessing prior learning. Faculty union meet and discuss meetings on this topic would also be necessary. Training would then be necessary throughout every university in registrar offices, admissions offices, and for all faculty and staff who advise students. Changes to information technology systems would also be necessary to meet reporting requirements. In total, PASSHE estimates this would cost approximately \$1.9 million.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: July 1, 2016

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