



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1552

PRINTERS NO. 2178

PRIME SPONSOR: Roae

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact" below.	

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1552 amends the Public School Code concerning the powers and duties of the Secretary of Education. It would take effect immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation gives the Secretary of Education the authority and duty to enter into and administer membership in a regional compact and interstate reciprocity agreement for the provision of postsecondary distance education. In states, territories, and districts that are party to such an agreement, institutions that choose to participate provide distance education to students from other states, territories, and districts that are also a party to the agreement.

House Bill 1552 also allows the Department of Education to charge administrative fees to institutions of higher education that choose to participate in the agreement, as long as those charges do not exceed the Department's additional administrative costs of participation. These fees may be deposited in the Postsecondary Distance Education Interstate Reciprocity Agreement Restricted Receipts Account established as a special restricted receipts account within the General Fund of the State Treasury by this legislation. The Department may use this money for all costs related to administering and implementing a Postsecondary Distance Education Interstate Reciprocity Agreement. The account may also accept funds appropriated for this purpose.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to the Department of Education, there is an annual fee of \$50,000 for Pennsylvania to join an interstate compact of the type described in this legislation. In the first year the Department pays to belong to such a compact, it will need to pay this fee from its available budget. In subsequent years, this money could be paid from the restricted account established by the legislation.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 5, 2015

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