



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 564

PRINTERS NO. 3547

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 564 amends the Public School Code concerning an assessment of civic knowledge. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 564 amends the Public School Code by adding a section concerning the assessment of civic knowledge. It requires school entities, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to administer, at least once during grades seven through twelve, a locally developed assessment of United States history, government and civics that includes the nature, purpose, principles, and structure of US constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and documents of US government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Each school entity will determine the form of the assessment and the manner in which the assessment will be administered. A school entity may use the US citizenship and immigration services test to satisfy the requirements for this assessment.

The Department of Education (PDE), within twelve months of the effective date of this legislation, must post on its website links to the US citizenship and immigration services test and related resources offered by US citizenship and immigration services. The Department must also post any additional materials it deems useful to schools for developing and administering this civics assessment.

House Bill 564 requires PDE to conduct an electronic survey of each school entity at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, and every two years thereafter, measuring compliance with these testing requirements. Each school entity must respond by November 30, 2021, and every two years thereafter. The survey may only request the type of test administered, the number of students who took the test, the number who passed the test, the grade level or levels in which the test was given, and the course, or courses, in which the test was given. By January 1, 2022, and every two years thereafter, the results of the most recent survey must be posted on the PDE website.

The Department must also develop a certificate of recognition for students who achieve a perfect score on the civics assessment, and make the certificate available on the Department's website for use by school entities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation would require the Department of Education to develop a certificate of recognition for students who achieve a perfect score on the civics assessment, which will be administered beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The Department must also conduct an electronic survey and report its results on the PDE website every two years, beginning in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The Department anticipates these requirements could create some minimal cost increases.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 6, 2018

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