



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1386

PRINTERS NO. 2607

PRIME SPONSOR: Phillips-Hill

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: House Bill 1386 amends the Public School Code concerning instructional certificate grade spans and age levels. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1386 amends the Public School Code by adding a new section concerning instructional certificate grade spans and age levels. It establishes new grade spans and age levels for instructional certificates issued after December 31, 2021, most significantly, by breaking the current elementary/middle grades certificate into separate elementary and middle grades certificates. It also combines current special education certificates into one category.

Those individuals holding elementary/middle and special education teaching certificates under current law will have the opportunity to expand the scope of those certificates under a process to be determined by the Department of Education.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), changes to Pennsylvania's certification requirements will necessitate revisions and updates to PDE's review process. This new certification process would start for certificates issued after December 31, 2021, in the middle of the 2021-22 fiscal year. Therefore, it is estimated any recurring staffing costs would begin in fiscal year 2021-22, and any one-time development costs would be incurred during the 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 fiscal years.

The Department estimates it may need three to four additional staff to manage the volume of applications for certification and re-certification that may be submitted. The Department also indicates a web-based application tool will need to be developed. This should take about 8 months at a one-time cost of approximately \$100,000. There could also be one-time costs of approximately \$50,000 for the development of program framework guidelines for the new certification programs.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 24, 2017

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