



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 49

PRINTERS NO. 2893

PRIME SPONSOR: Brown

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 49 amends the Public School Code concerning courses of study, school security, the Public Higher Education Funding Commission, and the Fostering Independence Waiver Program. Effective dates vary by provision.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 49, as amended by the Senate, makes changes in several areas of the Public School Code.

In Article XIII-C, concerning school security, House Bill 49 extends the training deadline for school police officers, school resource officers, and unarmed school security guards, to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. This change applies to those employed or contracted by a school entity or nonpublic school before September 2, 2019.

An armed school security guard employed or contracted by a school entity or nonpublic school before September 2, 2019 must complete the required training by February 28, 2020 unless an extension is approved through a process outlined in the legislation. This process involves the determination of a hardship by the governing body of the school entity or nonpublic school, either on the school or the personnel who require training. The deadline may be extended no later than the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

This article is also amended to provide school police officers with the power to arrest individuals. School police officers include law enforcement officers employed by a school entity or nonpublic school whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established by the school entity or nonpublic school. It does not include independent contractors or individuals provided through a third-party vendor.

In Article XVI House Bill 49 amends the section of the School Code dealing with high school courses of study. It provides that, beginning with students graduating from a public high school at the end of the 2020-21 school year, and continuing in each school year thereafter, a student who successfully completes a course in personal finance during grades nine through twelve will be

permitted to apply up to one credit earned for successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science, mathematics, or business education credit requirement for graduation. The school board of the district will have discretion to decide to which subject area the credit will apply. A student will not be permitted to apply more than one credit earned in computer science, information technology, or personal finance to the student's mathematics credit requirement for graduation. The bill also provides definitions for "personal finance," and "public high school."

In Article XX-I, the section concerning the Public Higher Education Funding Commission is amended to change the due date for the Commission's report. It will be due not later than November 30, 2020.

The Fostering Independence Waiver Program is amended to require that those seeking a waiver through the program must apply for all available Federal and State grants in order to be eligible for the waivers.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 28, 2019

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