



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 356

PRINTERS NO. 2109

PRIME SPONSOR: Dowling

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

House Bill 356 amends the Public School Code concerning charter school facilities. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Changes to charter school entity requirements in House Bill 356 would permit charter school entities to use sectarian facilities as long as the charter school entity provides for discrete and separate entrances to buildings utilized for school purposes only and the religious objects and symbols within the portions of the facility utilized by the school are covered or removed to the extent reasonably feasible.

Changes to the section concerning facilities give charter school entities the right of first refusal to purchase or lease, for educational purposes only, a public school building or part of a public school building which is being sold by the school entity, which is the owner of the building, subject to certain requirements and conditions.

In addition, a charter school or regional charter school that does not have in its written charter any limits on student enrollment or caps is permitted to operate the school at more than one location within the district that authorized the charter, as long as this is expressly permitted by the terms of its charter.

Changes to this section also require school districts, intermediate units, community colleges and State System of Higher Education institutions to provide cyber charter schools with reasonable access to their facilities for the administration of standardized testing. Facilities do not have to be made available on dates and times that may cause undue interference with educational programs. In addition, a facility rental fee may be charged, as long as the fee applies to all organizations and community groups.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 12, 2019

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