



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1342

PRINTERS NO. 4576

PRIME SPONSOR: Brown

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1342 amends the Public School Code concerning vision screening and examinations. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1342 adds a new section to the Public School Code concerning vision screening and examinations. It requires the parents and guardians of first-time school students to have a vision screening in the 12 months prior to the students' first day of school. The Advisory Health Board must promulgate regulations to establish vision screening standards.

School entities must perform student vision screenings every year through fifth grade and at least every other year through twelfth grade. The screenings must be performed by school health personnel or properly trained screeners. If a child fails a required vision screening, the child's parent or guardian must be made aware of the failure and provided a list of vision resources compiled by the Department of Health. The child should have a comprehensive eye examination, performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, within 120 days or before the start of the next school year, whichever comes first. However, no child can be denied admission or excluded from attending school if the comprehensive eye examination is not performed.

A school entity or nonpublic school is not required to provide a comprehensive eye exam nor is it held financially responsible for the treatment of a child who fails a vision screening. School entities include school districts, charter schools, regional charter schools, cyber charter schools, intermediate units and career and technical centers.

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

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 21, 2020

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