



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 440

PRINTERS NO. 1029

PRIME SPONSOR: Phillips-Hill

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$142,000

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 440 amends the Public School Code concerning flexible instructional days. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 440 adds a new section to the Public School Code concerning flexible instructional days. It requires the Department of Education (PDE) to issue guidance and establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking to establish or renew a program of flexible instructional days which would allow students to continue instruction at home when schools must be closed due to inclement weather or another type of emergency. The number of such days would be limited to five per school year. The application form must be posted on the PDE website.

Through this application, each district must establish how it will notify students, parents, and staff of the implementation and institution of a flexible instructional day. If the district plans to implement such days using technology, it must indicate how it will accommodate students without sufficient technology in their homes. The district must also explain the responsibilities of students and staff on these days, how it will record attendance, and how students with disabilities will be accommodated. Finally, examples of how instruction will be provided in various subjects at different grade levels must also be provided.

PDE must issue an annual survey related to the efficacy of flexible instructional days on or before April 30 of each year to each public school entity with an accepted application. Each public school entity must return the survey to the department by June 30 of the same year.

Nonpublic schools may use technology or other appropriate means to provide instruction to students on days when a school building is prevented from opening. In order to provide the instruction, a nonpublic school must have procedures in place to ensure the enforcement of student attendance and fulfill the minimum hours of instruction per year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Education has indicated that enactment of Senate Bill 440 will necessitate the hiring of an additional employee to administer the flexible instructional day program at a cost of \$142,000 annually for salary, benefits and operating expenses.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 20, 2019

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