



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 324

PRINTERS NO. 850

PRIME SPONSOR: Langerholc

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 324 amends the Public School Code concerning assisting students experiencing education instability. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 324 adds a new section to the Public School Code concerning assisting students experiencing education instability. It requires that, beginning in the 2021-22 school year, a school entity receiving a student who has changed school entities at least once in the preceding year must assign a point of contact to the student. School entities include school districts, intermediate units, career and technical schools, and all types of charter schools. The legislation also lists certain fees and rules that must be waived for these students and requires they be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored or extracurricular activity for which the student meets placement and qualification requirements.

As detailed in the legislation, the point of contact for students experiencing education instability must work with school counselors, school social workers, home and school visitors and school psychologists to facilitate the prompt placement of such students into appropriate courses and make sure the students stay on track to graduate in a timely manner.

The Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, must issue guidelines and best practices within 180 days of the effective date of this legislation to assist school entities in implementing its provisions and to facilitate the transition between school entities. The guidelines must be posted on the PDE website.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. Provisions requiring PDE, in consultation with the Department of Human Services to issue guidelines and best practices can be accomplished within the Departments' existing budgets.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association have indicated that school entities will experience minimal costs

related to implementing the provisions contained in the legislation as the school entities already work to address the problems children in education instability face in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school as a result of similar provisions contained in federal law.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 11, 2022

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