



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 148

PRINTER'S NO. 955

PRIME SPONSOR: **Ortitay**

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	See fiscal impact	See fiscal impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 148 amends the Public School Code to provide for eating disorder awareness and education.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 148 creates a new section within Article XIV – School Health Services – of the Public School Code that requires a school entity, which is defined as a school district, area career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, regional charter school, intermediate unit, or nonpublic school, to annually provide parents, guardians, principals, vice principals, school counselors, and school psychologists with information, via a public website, email, or first-class mail, regarding eating disorder awareness and education for pupils in grades six through twelve. This information must be consistent with the eating disorder prevention educational materials required to be developed and publicly posted in a variety of languages by the Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Health.

Within 60 days of the effective date, House Bill 148 directs the Secretary of Education to establish the Eating Disorders Advisory Committee, which is charged with meeting at least twice and making final recommendations related to the content of the educational information and materials, to include the types of eating disorders, warning signs, weight and body image disorder, obsessive compulsive exercise, and orthorexia nervosa, within one year of its first meeting.

The Secretary, who may have a designee, shall serve as the chair of the Committee and shall appoint other Committee members from the following specialized organizations: the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, the National Alliance for Eating Disorders, the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation, and the Academy for Eating Disorders. These members shall serve without compensation. In subsequent years, the Committee shall meet at least annually to review the recommended informational materials. Finally, the Committee, Department of Education, and Department of Health shall identify and develop appropriate additions or revisions to the commonwealth's school health regulations and materials related to the development of parent educational information.

This act would take effect in 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 148 will have a minimal fiscal impact on commonwealth funds. The Departments of Health and Education indicated that they do not anticipate needing additional staff to provide administrative, information technology, or program support to the Eating Disorders Advisory Committee. The new requirements in House Bill 148 will involve staff hours, but that work can be supported by existing appropriations. To fund general government operations for the Departments of Health and Education, Act 1A of 2022 provided \$31.245 million and \$36.404 million, respectively.

The fiscal impact to a school entity is likely to be minimal and will largely depend upon the communication medium by which the school entity chooses to annually provide the educational materials to parents, guardians, and key school personnel.

PREPARED BY: Sean Brandon, Senior Budget Analyst
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: April 24, 2023

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