



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1032

PRINTER'S NO. 1785

PRIME SPONSOR: Fiedler

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

Establishes the Solar for Schools Grant Program. There is no funding for the program included in the bill.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1032, Printer's Number 1785 establishes the Solar for Schools Grant Program in the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide competitive grants to eligible applicants, including school districts, intermediate units, area career and technical schools, chartered schools for the education of the deaf or the blind, community colleges, the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology, for costs related to solar energy projects.

In addition to developing an application and guidelines, the department is required to provide technical assistance related to solar assessments to applicants who request it. In making grant award determinations, the department may give preference based upon projected solar energy production, proximity to recently closed coal-powered electric generation plants, and potential federal Inflation Reduction Act funding, including qualifying for the low-income communities bonus credit program.

Grant awards are capped at 50% of the cost of the solar energy project and must be geographically dispersed throughout the commonwealth. The department may randomly audit and monitor grant recipients for compliance with the terms of the grant.

House Bill 1032 would take effect July 1, 2023, or immediately, whichever is later.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 1032 provides for the framework for a new Solar for Schools Grant Program, but it does not include an appropriation for program grants. Further, the bill permits the Department of Community and Economic Development to use money appropriated for the program to cover direct costs associated with the administration of the program. Therefore, House Bill 1032 would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

For eligible applicants, grant funding under House Bill 1032 would represent a new revenue source, helping cover upfront costs for solar energy projects that would, in turn, generate long-term energy cost savings.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: June 29, 2023

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