



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1331

PRINTER'S NO. 1653

PRIME SPONSOR: Otten

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	\$0	\$72,553,000 ; See fiscal impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1331 adds data transparency provisions related to the educator workforce and creates the Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1331, Printer's Number 1653, amends Article I – Preliminary Provisions – of the Public School Code to add three data transparency provisions. First, it requires the Dept. of Education to establish and maintain a public database for school entities or nonpublic schools to voluntarily advertise employee vacancies. Second, school entities are required to submit information to the Dept. of Education related to instructional vacancies, emergency permits, and long-term substitutes. The department must post this data on its website. Third, the department must post data related to the educator workforce on its website and issue a report to the governor and General Assembly.

Additionally, House Bill 1331 adds Article XII-B – Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program – to the Public School Code. The grant program is administered by the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and provides a \$10,000 grant to each eligible student teacher (with an additional \$5,000 if the student teacher completes their required training at a high-vacancy school) and a \$2,500 grant to each cooperating teacher. PHEAA shall prepare a report detailing the operation of the program for each year that funding is available.

House Bill 1331 takes effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 1331 would impose a cost on the Dept. of Education related to creating and maintaining the databases for job postings, vacancies, and the education workforce. Dept. of Education staff estimate an initial implementation cost of \$1.5 million in 2023/24 to hire three people to administer the programs and to create the database and data collection tools. Beyond 2023/24, the ongoing costs for staffing the programs and maintaining the databases are expected to be \$500,000 annually.

House Bill 1331 would also impose a cost related to awards under the Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program. According to the Dept. of Education's most recent Report on Educator Preparation and Certification, there were 4,220 in-state Instructional I certificates issued in 2021/22. Using the five-year average of about 5,200 in-state Instructional I certificates, the cost of the \$10,000 grant for each eligible student teacher would be \$52 million. There would be an additional \$13 million cost associated with the \$2,500 grant for the cooperating teachers paired with each of those 5,200 student teachers. There could be another \$2.5 million in costs if 500 student teachers qualify for the additional \$5,000 grant for student teaching in a school entity with a high rate of open teaching positions. Altogether, it is estimated that the Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program will cost \$67.5 million for a full year.

Given that PHEAA has up to 120 days to develop the application and that the application form is to be completed by "an individual who is seeking placement as a student teacher," it is possible that only student teachers for the spring semester will receive a grant in 2023/24. This would reduce the overall grant cost by half in the first year.

PHEAA is permitted to use up to 5% of the funds appropriated for the program to administer the program. If the grant program costs \$67.5 million, then a \$71.1 million appropriation is needed to provide PHEAA the full 5% while maintaining enough funds for the grant awards.

PREPARED BY: Sean Brandon
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: June 22, 2023

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