

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO.

Senate Bill 766

PRINTER'S NO.

1617

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

April 3, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robbins

HISTORY OF BILLReferred to EDUCATION, April 3, 2009Reported as amended, Jan. 26, 2010

First consideration, Jan. 26, 2010

Second consideration, Feb. 1, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 1, 2010Re-reported as committed, Feb. 8, 2010**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 766 adds a new Article XV-F (Science Technology Partnerships) to the Public School Code to statutorily establish the Science in Motion Program.

The program as established in Senate Bill 766 is designed to improve science education by making scientific or technical equipment available to students; augmenting science curriculum; and, providing professional development opportunities to science educators.

Senate Bill 766 requires the Department of Education to administer a grant program that awards grants to qualified higher education institutions that are members of science technology partnerships. It establishes criteria for funding science technology partnerships and provides that grants shall be awarded for the purchase or lease of scientific or technical equipment or for the development of programs of instruction for partnership members. It also prescribes the establishment and contents of partnership agreements between institutions of higher education and schools and school districts.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 766 provides the Department of Education with the powers necessary to implement the program and requires the Department to provide an annual report.

Language inserted in the Senate Education Committee provides that grants awards will be made to the extent that funds are appropriated.

Senate Bill 766 is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 766 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Funding will be dependent on appropriations made in the General Appropriations Act.

The FY 2009-10 General Fund Budget included \$1,900,000 for the Science in Motion program in the line item titled Mobil Science Education Program. However, to date, the Governor has placed the entire appropriation in budgetary reserve.