

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.**

Senate Bill 1011

**PRINTER'S NO.**

1953

**AMOUNT**

No adverse fiscal impact

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

July 10, 2009

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Dinniman

**HISTORY OF BILL**Referred to EDUCATION, July 10, 2009Reported as committed, Dec. 16, 2009

First consideration, Dec. 16, 2009

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 3, 2010Re-reported as amended, May 4, 2010**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1011 amends Article XII (Certification of Teachers) of the Public School Code of 1949 to provide for conversion of out of state certification, postbaccalaureate certification programs, and nontraditional accelerated postbaccalaureate teacher and administrator certification.

The bill provides that candidates holding a valid instructional certificate issued from another state to be eligible for comparable Pennsylvania certification provided the candidate holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, has three years of successful professional experience, demonstrates subject matter competency and meets the requirements contained in Section 1209 (relating to health and fitness).

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Education to evaluate and approve all postbaccalaureate certification programs, including providers other than institutions of higher education, and develop guidelines for the programs. The guidelines shall include instruction and training in educational strategies, child development, professional ethics and responsibilities, academic standards, accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities, and strategies for meeting the needs of English language learners. The guidelines require candidates receive mentoring and oversight that includes field placement and ongoing support in partnership with local education agencies.

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **FISCAL NOTE**

The bill provides for the Secretary of Education to issue residency certificates for service in a specific shortage area of instruction in public schools. A candidate may only be issued a residency certificate one-time. Candidates for a residency certificate must meet the requirements contained in Section 1209, be enrolled continuously in an approved residency program and provide evidence of satisfactory achievement on subject area content tests. A candidate must hold either a doctoral degree in the shortage area, a master degree and have two years of work experience in the shortage area or a bachelor's degree and have at least five years work experience in the shortage area. A residency certification is valid for three years and may be converted to an Instructional I Certification upon completion of all residency certification program requirements.

The bill provides for the Secretary of Education to issue intern certificates for service in a specific area of instruction. A candidate may only be issued an intern certificate one-time. A candidate for an intern certificate must meet the requirements contained in Section 1209, be enrolled continuously in an approved postbaccalaureate intern certification program that includes monthly classroom observation during the first year of teaching, present evidence of satisfactory achievement on subject matter assessments tests related to the area of certification and hold a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university. An intern certificate is valid for three years and a candidate shall be issued an Instruction I Certificate upon successful completion of an intern certification program.

The bill provides that no person shall be granted an administrative certificate unless the candidate holds a degree from a regionally accredited college or university, has three years relevant professional experience, meets the requirements contained in Section 1209, has completed a college or university program in education approved by the department or has provided to the Secretary of Education satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a leadership development program that meets the Pennsylvania leadership standards.

Finally, the bill exempts candidates in post baccalaureate certification programs from mathematic and English credit requirements contained in 22 PA Code Section 354.23 regulations.

The bill will become effective in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of Senate Bill 1011 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. The Department of Education has indicated the administrative provision contained in the legislation can be accomplished within its existing General Government Operations budget.