

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 157

**PRINTER'S NO.** 2076

**AMOUNT**

\$9,000 Annually

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 18, 2011

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Fontana

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to EDUCATION, Jan. 18, 2011

Reported as amended, Feb. 8, 2011

First consideration, Feb. 8, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 7, 2011

Re-reported as amended, April 2, 2012

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 157 establishes a task force on homeless education within the Department of Education and requires it to study the homeless children population and their educational needs and make reports.

Provides for the task force to be composed of the Secretary of Education; Secretary of Public Welfare; and, fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of Education representing local agencies assisting homeless children, public schools, intermediate units and social service and advocacy organizations with experience working with homeless children and education issues. Requires it to meet quarterly and provides that members are not to be compensated but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and other reasonable expenses.

Requires the study to include: a demographic study of homeless parents and youth; an assessment of the difficulties of serving homeless students; an assessment of barriers to serving the needs of homeless youth; an assessment of successful strategies for serving homeless students; an assessment of the relationship between homeless shelters and school personnel and effective protocols to serve homeless students; an assessment of methods for accurate identification and counting of homeless students in pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and, recommendations regarding data currently collected by the Department of Education that could be disaggregated on an ongoing basis in regard to homeless children.

Requires the task force to make a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within one year of its first meeting and periodic reports every three years.

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **FISCAL NOTE**

Requires the Department to develop uniform forms and surveys necessary for obtaining the information required for the study and provide administrative/technical assistance and office space for the task force.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

It is estimated that reimbursements for board travel and other expenses will amount to approximately \$9,000 annually. Administrative costs related to developing the forms and surveys necessary for obtaining information required in the study and providing administrative/technical support can be accomplished within the Department of Education's existing general government operations appropriation.