

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 159

PRINTER'S NO. 440

AMOUNT

\$2,500 Annually

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

January 18, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robbins

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to EDUCATION, Jan. 18, 2011

Reported as amended, Feb. 8, 2011

First consideration, Feb. 8, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 14, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Feb. 28, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 159 establishes a freestanding act authorizing the Commonwealth to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove impediments to education success experienced by children of military personnel due to frequent moves by their parents.

The bill includes provisions to facilitate transfer of records; timely enrollment; course placement; assessment; qualification for educational programs and extracurricular activities; and, graduation of children of military personnel.

It requires the state to create a nine member State Council or use an existing body to coordinate the provisions of the compact among government agencies, local education agencies and military installations.

It requires the Governor to appoint a compact commissioner to represent the Commonwealth on the Interstate Compact Commission. The commissioner shall not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses.

It authorizes the Interstate Compact Commission to levy an annual assessment upon member states to pay its operating expenses.

It provides that any state laws conflicting with the compact are superseded to the extent that they conflict and all acts of the commission a binding on member states.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Interstate Compact Commission has determined the annual assessment to states to be \$1 per active military duty child as reported annually by the Defense Manpower Data Center. Based on previous reports, approximately 2,500 eligible children reside in the Commonwealth.

The Interstate Compact Commission has indicated it will pay for expenses related to travel and lodging for the compact commissioner to attend Interstate Compact Commission meetings from its annual assessments.

The Department of Education, Department of State and local education agencies may incur minimal expenses related to the coordination and adherence to the provisions of the compact, which can be borne within their existing operating budgets.