

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1133

PRINTER'S NO. 1788

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

June 14, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator D. White

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to EDUCATION, June 14, 2011

Reported as amended, Nov. 15, 2011

First consideration, Nov. 15, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Nov. 16, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Dec. 12, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1133 amends Section 2003-A of the Public School Code of 1949 to allow State-owned universities to provide doctoral level instruction in areas of study leading to professional doctoral degrees, which are also known as applied doctoral degrees. At present, the law requires all doctoral programs offered by State-owned universities to be offered jointly with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) or an institution chartered to offer work at the doctoral level.

Requires new doctoral programs to be approved by the State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors prior to being offered and comply with criteria established by the Board which shall include: 1) Institutional mission, plan and readiness; 2) Need for the program; 3) Academic integrity; 4) Cooperation with other institutions, agencies, or organizations; 5) Assessment and accreditation; 6) Resource sufficiency; and, 7) Educational opportunity.

Specifies that IUP remains the only State-owned university with the authority to offer doctor of philosophy degrees.

The act is to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1133 will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. State-owned universities which establish new professional doctoral programs may incur additional costs.