

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1559

**PRINTER'S NO.** 2927

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 20, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Farina

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 1559 establishes a new Section 1205.7 (Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention) in the Public School Code to require school entities to adopt youth suicide awareness and prevention policies and incorporate youth suicide awareness and prevention education into their curriculum.

Requires a school entity adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy within 90 days of the effective date of the legislation. Requires the policy be established in conjunction with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in the Commonwealth. Requires the policy to include: (1) a statement on youth suicide prevention and awareness and protocols for administering youth suicide prevention education; (2) methods of prevention, intervention and postvention; (3) reporting procedures; and, (4) current contact information and resources available on suicide awareness and prevention programs.

Requires a school entity to inform employees of the policy and make youth suicide awareness education, materials and resources available to them. Requires a school entity to submit a professional development plan to the Secretary of Education that includes four (4) hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five (5) years in buildings serving grades six (6) through 12. Provides the training may be used to satisfy an educator's continuing professional development requirements. Provides that training may also be provided to nonteaching staff, including contractors.

Requires a school entity to incorporate age appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention education into its curriculum. Provides a school entity may utilize materials and resources from an approved list maintained by the Department of Education.

Requires the Department of Education to maintain a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention education materials and resources on its Internet website and work in conjunction with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in the Commonwealth to determine which materials are most appropriate.

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## FISCAL NOTE

The legislation is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2013, or immediately, whichever is later.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of House Bill 1559 should have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative responsibilities delegated to the Department of Education related to this legislation are minor and can be accomplished within its existing operating budget.

Costs to school districts should be minimal because materials related to youth suicide awareness prevention are widely available and training can be incorporated into existing professional development programs.