

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 267

PRINTER'S NO. 1576

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 18, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Greenleaf

HISTORY OF BILL

- Referred to EDUCATION, Jan. 18, 2013
- Reported as amended, Feb. 12, 2013
- First consideration, Feb. 12, 2013
- Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 12, 2013
- Re-reported as amended, Nov. 18, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 267 amends Section 1329 (Excuses from Attending School) and Section 1423 (Automatic External Defibrillators) of the Public School Code as follows:

Excuses from Attending School -- The bill allows a school district to excuse a student from school to participate in a nonschool district sponsored educational trip consistent with State Board of Education regulations. At present, the State Board regulations provide for a student to be excused for a nonschool district sponsored educational trip if the following conditions are met: (1) the student's parent or guardian prior to the trip submits a written request for the excusal to the school; (2) the student's participation on the trip has been approved by the school district superintendent; and, (3) there is an adult directing or supervising the trip who is acceptable to both the parent and the superintendent. Additionally, the regulations allow a school district to limit the number and duration of trips for which absences may be granted during the school term.

Automatic External Defibrillators -- The bill provides for a program to assist school entities in making automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) available in all school buildings. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and Department of General Services, to biennially issue an invitation to bid for the cost of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and other equipment and supplies necessary for the proper operation of the device. Allows school entities, including nonpublic schools, to purchase AEDs at the contract bid price.

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Provides that the purchase of an AED shall be considered an allowable use of Pennsylvania Accountability Grants and an innovative educational program under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Provides that the General Assembly may appropriate funding for the program and the Department of Education may provide school entities that need to be equipped with AEDs a discount from the contract bid price or AEDs with funds made available to it for this purpose.

Provides for school entities to make an annual report to the Department of Education detailing the number, condition, age and placement of AEDs in each school building. Requires the Department of Education to annually publish a report, which details the number of AEDs by school entity, the number of school buildings by school entity equipped with AEDs and the number of school buildings by school entity that need to be equipped with AEDs.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 267 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative and reporting responsibilities delegated to the Department of Education, Department of Health and Department of General Services as a result of provisions related to the AED program are minor and can be accomplished within the agencies' general government operations budgets. Funding for the purchase of AEDs and to provide discounts from the contract bid price will be dependent on appropriations made by the General Assembly.