

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1281

PRINTER'S NO. 1810

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 11, 2014

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Corman

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1281 amends Sections 1501.7 (Weather Emergency of 1996) and 1502 (Day Schools not to be Kept Open) to provide public schools with additional options to make up snow days during the 2013-14 school year.

The bill allows school districts, intermediate units and area vocational technical schools to calculate the school year on an hourly basis (900 hours for elementary schools and 990 hours for secondary schools), rather than a daily basis (180 days) and for them to keep schools open one Saturday per month. It also provides for charter schools to be kept open one Saturday per month.

The bill allows for students to be excused from school for religious reasons and for leadership activities. It provides that no school that closed because of the weather emergency shall receive less in state subsidy and reimbursements and that no professional employee of any school closed because of the weather emergency shall receive more or less compensation than that to which the employee was otherwise entitled to receive had the weather emergency not occurred.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1281 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.