

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1552

**PRINTER NO.** 2178

**AMOUNT**

\$50,000

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

September 16, 2015

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Roae

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 1552 establishes a new Section 124 (Powers and Duties of the Secretary of Education) in the Public School Code to require the Secretary of Education to enter into and administer membership in a regional compact and an interstate reciprocity agreement for the provision of postsecondary distance learning by the following:

- Institutions of higher education to students in other states, territories or districts party to such agreement; and,
- Postsecondary institutions in other states, territories or districts that are party to such an agreement to students in the Commonwealth.

Provides the department may charge fees to institutions of higher education that choose to participate in the interstate reciprocity agreement, not to exceed its additional expenses. Requires the fees collected from institutions of higher education to be deposited into a restricted receipt account established in the General Fund from which the department may draw money for expenses related to the agreement.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Education estimates the annual fee for the Commonwealth to enter into the interstate reciprocity agreement to be \$50,000. Costs after the first year of participation will be minimal as the department should recover its costs from the fees paid by the participating institution of higher education.