

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 862

PRINTER NO. 1047

AMOUNT

No Fiscal impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 1, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Smucker

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 862 amends Section 111 (Criminal History of Employees and Prospective Employees; Conviction of Certain Offenses) of the Public School Code to align criminal history background clearance requirements for school employees with the Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa.C.S. Section 6344).

Requires a prospective school employee when submitting an employment application to provide the following forms of clearance that are not more than three (3) years old: (1) a report of criminal history from the State Police; (2) a federal criminal history record based on the submission of a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and, (3) a certification from the Department of Human Services as to whether the prospective employee is an alleged perpetrator in a pending child abuse investigation or the perpetrator of a founded or indicated report of child abuse.

Requires an existing school employee to obtain updated clearances every 36 months and any employee who has not previously been required to obtain the clearances to obtain them by no later than December 31, 2015.

Allows clearances obtained for employment or volunteer requirements under the Child Protective Service Law that are not more the 36 month old to satisfy the requirements in this section provided the applicant attests to not being disqualified from employment.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 862 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. As a requirement of the Child Protective Service Law, school employees are presently required to obtain these clearances and renew them every 36 months.