

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 202

PRINTER NO. 161

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 24, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Turzai

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 202 amends Section 121 (Keystone Exams) of the Public School Code related to the Commonwealth's requirement to develop Keystone Exams and alternative testing for career and technical education students.

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Commonwealth develop and implement Keystone Exams in English composition, algebra II, geometry, United States history, chemistry, civics and government, and world history by 2020-2021 subject to annual appropriation.

The bill also provides that in any year when demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for graduation from high school, a CTE concentrator shall be deemed proficient, provided the student completes grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and completes one of the following: (1) attains an industry-based competency certification related to their program of study; or, (2) demonstrates high likelihood of success on an industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in their program of study.

A "CTE concentrator" is a student who completes at least 50% of the minimum technical instructional hours required annually for vocational education students.

The legislation is schedule to become effective immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 202 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Current law provides that the development of additional Keystone Exams is subject to annual appropriation by the General Assembly, therefore, it is unknown whether the legislation would result in future savings to the Commonwealth related to additional test development.