

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2157

PRINTER NO. 3278

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 6, 2018

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Grove

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2157 amends the Public School Code to require guidelines for utilization of credits for agricultural and vocational education programs and to establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code.

The legislation requires the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence to issue and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes an academic course, program, or activity for credit may apply the credit toward completion of an agriculture education program.

The legislation requires the Department of Education (department) to issue and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes a course, program, or activity in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics for credit may apply the credit toward the completion of a course, program or activity offered by any area vocational-technical school, technical institute, or vocational school or department.

The legislation requires the department to establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a Classification Program Code (CPC). The form shall be published on the department's website and contain the following information:

- The name of the public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a CPC;
- The title of the CPC;
- The occupational competency area of the CPC;
- The description of the CPC;
- A list of skills that a student must attain in order to complete the CPC;
- Evidence of the public school entity's financial support for the CPC; and
- Any additional information the department deems necessary to determine whether to approve or disapprove of the CPC.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The legislation also provides an annual timeline for the department's approval or denial of the program codes. It defines "Classification of Program Code" as a numerical code of instructional programs developed by the U.S. Department of Education to identify vocational programs. It also defines a "public school entity" as a school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit, or area vocational-technical school.

The legislation is schedule to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 2157 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The legislation is markedly similar to an existing program operated by the Department of Education designed to expedite the classification of instructional programs for career and technical education, which includes agricultural education.

Additionally, the current year's budget includes \$250,000 to be used by the Commission of Agricultural Excellence to assist in the development and implementation of agriculture education programming.