

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1514

PRINTER NO. 1910

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 29, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Hershey

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1514 re-establishes and renames the current Healthy Farms Healthy Schools program as the Farm-to-School Program as a new Chapter 109 (Farm-to-School) Program) in Title 3 (Agriculture).

The legislation provides for the program to be developed in consultation with the Commission on Agricultural Education Excellence and the Department of Health and to provide grants to educate pre-kindergartners through fifth graders and their families about the importance of choosing healthy, locally produced foods and to increase awareness of Pennsylvania agriculture.

The legislation provides that the purpose of the program is to do following: (1) permit student participation in nutrition education that focuses on locally grown foods; (2) equip teachers and educators to incorporate nutrition and agriculture education into their instruction; (3) provide new direct marketing opportunities for PA farmers; (4) provide for family and community involvement, including parent, caregiver and community group participation in education activities; and (5) include visits to nearby farms for school children so they may better understand and learn more about the sources of their food.

The legislation provides that the grant amounts are limited to 75% of the amount necessary to develop the program but may not exceed \$15,000 annually per school. A school may use in-kind support to match the amount granted. The Department of Agriculture may establish criteria under which the secretary may demand the return of all or a portion of the grant funds.

The legislation repeals Healthy Farms Healthy Schools (Act 184 of 2006) and is scheduled to take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 1514 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Funding for Farm-to-School Program established in the legislation will be dependent upon appropriations made by the General Assembly through the annual General Appropriations Act.