

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 590

**PRINTER NO.** 705

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 1, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Browne

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 590 adds a new Section 1704-A (Charter School Funding Advisory Commission) to the Public School Code establishing the Charter School Funding Advisory Commission (commission) to review and make recommendations concerning charter school funding and other charter school related issues.

The legislation provides for the commission to be comprised 13 members as follows: (1) the Secretary of Education; (2) one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House; (4) one member appointed by each minority leader of the House and Senate; (5) the majority and minority chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees; and (6) the majority and minority chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees.

The legislation provides for the commission to elect two (2) chairpersons, one from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives. It requires the commission to hold at least six (6) public meetings and the General Assembly to provide administrative support and meeting space to the commission. It also provides that commission members may not receive compensation for service but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The legislation provides the commission with the following duties:

- To meet with current charter school entity operators and personnel and other representatives of public education;
- To review entity financing laws in operation throughout the United States;
- To assess the actual cost of education for a child in a charter school and in a school district or intermediate unity utilizing cyber classes;
- To evaluate and make recommendations on the following:
  - The process by which charter schools are funded;
  - Appropriate funding for charter school operations;
  - Appropriate funding for charter school facilities and management;
  - Appropriate funding for regular and special education transportation;
  - Other funding issues raised in the course of public hearings;

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- Consideration of a school district deduction for programs and services, which could be funded from competitive public or private grants, contributions or donations;
- The appropriate manner of funding for a charter school that primarily serves adjudicated youth;
- Appropriate funding for extracurricular activities offered to a student enrolled in a charter school; and
- Appropriate funding for charter school special education programs.

The legislation requires the commission to issue a report of its findings no later than 18 months from the effective date to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House and Senate.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of Senate Bill 590 is estimated to cost the Commonwealth \$46,000 for travel and other reasonable expenses for the 13 members of the commission to attend 10 meetings. The requirements of the General Assembly to provide administrative support, meeting space, and other assistance to the commission should pose a minimal cost. All of the costs can be accomplished within the General Assembly's existing operating budget as they are routine to its operations. The FY 2018-19 General Fund budget includes \$340,135,000 for the General Assembly.