

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 232

PRINTER NO. 2715

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 25, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Mustello

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 232 amends Section 201 (How Constituted) of the Public School Code to provide a process for a school district of the 3rd Class within a county of the 4th or 6th class to change its name with the approval of the Department of Education (department).

The legislation requires the school board of directors (board) to approve the name change by a two-thirds vote, hold a hearing on the name change and determine the estimated cost of the name change. It requires the school district to report the vote approving the name change to the department by July 31 for the upcoming school year and to include a certified copy of the resolutions adopted by the board approving the name change.

The legislation requires the department to review and approve the name change within 30 days of receiving the report if the new name is not a duplication of the name of another school district in the Commonwealth. It also requires the department, upon approval, to issue a certificate stating the approved name of the school district has been registered as the official designation of the school district.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately and will expire on September 1, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 232 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative provisions requiring the department to approve a name change should pose a minimal burden on the agency and can be accomplished within its existing general government operations budget. For information purposes, the FY 2021-2022 General Fund budget included \$29,981,000 for the department's general government operations.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) estimates the cost to school districts that choose to undergo a name change, which will require updating websites, signage and other displays, to be minimal.