

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 224

PRINTER NO. 194

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 11, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Bartolotta

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 224 establishes Section 1206.1 (Out-of-State Applicants for Certification) in the Public School Code to provide eligibility requirements for an out-of-state teacher to obtain a Pennsylvania instructional certificate.

The legislation provides for an out-of-state candidate for teacher certification to be eligible for a certificate if they meet the following requirements:

- (1) Hold a valid and current instructional certificate from another state;
- (2) Have completed an educator preparation program approved by the certifying state;
- (3) Have satisfied testing requirements demonstrating subject matter competency in the applicable area of Pennsylvania certification; and
- (4) For a candidate who has taught on an out-of-state certificate, presentation to the Department of Education (department) of evidence of satisfactory professional educator experience in the most recent two years of teaching.

The legislation also provides for an out-of-state candidate for teacher certification who holds a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to be eligible for and granted the highest-level of certification available in the candidate's area of certification.

The legislation requires that an out-of-state candidate for teacher certification satisfy the requirements of Section 1202 (State Certifications) and Section 1209 (Disqualifications). It also provides that an out-of-state candidate meeting the eligibility requirements and seeking certification in a subject identified by the department as a shortage area to be issued certification on an expedited basis.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days and repeals Section 1206 (Certificates Issued by Other States).

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the enactment of Senate Bill 224 will require the Department of Education to expend \$500,000 annually for salary and benefits for four (4) additional staff in its Division of Certification Services for general program administration, to determine test equivalents and evaluate applications from out-of-state candidates for teacher certification.

In addition, the Department of Education estimates that it will incur one-time costs to update its Teacher Information Management System at a cost of \$500,000 to accommodate provisions contained in the legislation.