

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 664

PRINTER NO. 753

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 7, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Corman

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 644 establishes Section 1383 (Extended Special Education Enrollment Due to COVID-19) and Section 1501.10 (Optional Year of Education Due to COVID-19) in the Public School Code of 1949 to allow for students to repeat a grade level to make up for lost education opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 1383 (Extended Special Education Enrollment Due to COVID-19) allows the parent of a student with a disability who is enrolled for the 2020-21 school year and reaches 21 years of age prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year to elect to enroll the student in the school entity for the 2021-22 school year. It provides for the school entity to implement the provisions of the student’s most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) and to provide extended school year services during the summer after the 2020-21 school year in accordance with the student’s most recent IEP. It also provides that a student’s attendance shall be included in the school entity’s average daily membership. For the purpose of this section, a school entity is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, area vocational technical school, charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school, including an approved private school or chartered school for the deaf and blind for any student enrolled under the provisions of Section 1376 or 1376.1, respectively.

Section 1501.10 (Optional Year of Education Due to COVID-19) allows a student age 18 or older, or a parent or guardian of a student under the age of 18 or a child at or over the age of consent, for the 2021-22 school year, to elect no later than July 15, 2021 to repeat a grade level to make up for any lost educational opportunities due to COVID-19, regardless of whether the student met the requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. It requires a school entity to create an online application to make an election under this section. For the purpose of this section, a school entity is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, area vocational technical school, charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 664 will result in additional costs to school entities and the Commonwealth to the extent that students elect to repeat a grade level to make up for lost education opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on school districts' 2019-20 annual financial reports, the most recent data available, the average current expenditure per student is \$16,577. For each 100 students that elect to repeat a grade level, the legislation is estimated to cost \$1.7 million in Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Additionally, the Federal American Recovery Plan has allocated \$5 billion to the Commonwealth through the Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Based on the provisions of the federal law, \$1.15 billion is available to address learning loss as would be accomplished under this legislation.