

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1277

PRINTER NO. 1738

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 10, 2022

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Aument

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1277 establishes a new Section 1529 (Parental Notification Relating to Instructional Materials and Books Containing Sexually Explicit Content) in the Public School Code to require the governing body of a school entity to develop a policy to provide parental notification of instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content no later than August 30, 2022.

The legislation requires the policy to identify specific instructional materials and books that are used or made available to students that contain sexually explicit material and to ensure parental notification prior to a student’s exposure to the materials.

The legislation provides that the policy must permit a student’s parent or legal guardian to review the instructional materials or books containing sexually explicit content. It specifies that a school entity must provide alternative, nonexplicit instructional materials and related activities if requested. The legislation requires the governing body of a school entity to seek input at a public forum prior to adoption of the policy to ensure it meets the requirements provided in the legislation.

The legislation includes language stipulating that it may not be construed to prohibit a school entity from implementing additional transparency measures for sexually explicit content, prevent it from determining that sexually explicit materials are not appropriate for minors or students of certain ages, even when the content would not violate other laws, or permit the giving of sexually explicit materials to minors that are prohibited by any other applicable law.

The legislation defines a “school entity” as a school district, intermediate unit, joint school, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school and is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 1277 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. School entities will likely incur minimal costs to develop and administer the required policies, which can be accomplished within their existing operating budgets.