

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1478

**PRINTER NO.** 2175

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 21, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Cephas

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1478 amends Section 1403 (Dental Examinations and Dental Hygiene Services) in the Public School Code to change the term dental examination to dental screening and to provide that a public health dental hygiene practitioner may perform required dental screenings.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

Currently, the law requires a school district to provide its students with either a dental examination by a school dentist upon original entry into school, while in third grade and while in seventh grade or to offer a dental hygiene program approved by the Department of Health.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The enactment of House Bill 1478 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Section 2505.1 (State Reimbursement for Health Services) of the Public School Code provides reimbursement for required dental services to school districts at the lesser of \$0.80 or the certified cost per student and for dental hygiene services at the lesser of \$2.00 or the certified cost per student. The rates contained in Section 2505.1 are not changed by the legislation.

To the extent that school districts choose to employ a public health dental hygiene practitioner to perform the required dental screenings rather than a dentist, school districts may realize a savings.