

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 232

PRINTER NO. 146

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 27, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Brooks

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 232 amends Section 1402 (Health Services) of the Public School Code to require a school district's school health personnel to remove ticks from students, facilitate the testing of removed ticks for disease and provide information to parents and guardians regarding Lyme disease.

The legislation requires a school nurse, school physician or employee of a school district to remove a tick from a student in accordance with guidelines developed by the Secretary of Health (secretary). It requires the school district to preserve the tick for the parent or guardian of the student to send the tick to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing, if the parent or guardian chooses to do so. It requires the school district to provide information to the parent or guardian on how to send the tick to the Tick Research Lab and to provide the parent or guardian with the option of requiring the school district to send the tick directly to the Tick Research Lab for testing using the free basic panel tick test.

The legislation requires the school district to notify the parent or guardian in writing that a tick has been removed on the day it was removed and provide information about Lyme disease and its symptoms and a recommendation to seek medical treatment.

The legislation requires the secretary to publish guidelines regarding the removal of ticks from students on the Department of Health's publicly accessible internet website, in consultation with the Department of Education and provide the guidelines to school districts.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 232 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative responsibility delegated to the Department of Health (department) to publish guidelines regarding the removal of ticks from students and disseminating the guidelines is routine to its mission and can be accomplished within its existing operating budget. For information purposes, the department's General Government Operation's budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 is \$31,245,000.

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The enactment of the legislation should pose no fiscal impact on school districts. According to the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners, removing ticks and providing information about the risk of Lyme disease and making a recommendation to seek medical treatment to parents and guardians is normal practice for school district school health personnel.