

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 750

**PRINTER NO.** 972

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 5, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Martin

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 750 establishes a new Section 1617 in the Public School Code (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to provide that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to completing high school.

The legislation allows the parent or legal guardian of a student, or a student that is 18 years of age or emancipated, to choose not to file a FAFSA by completing an opt-out form developed by the Department of Education (department), in consultation with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (agency).

The legislation requires the opt-out form to include a statement that the parent, legal guardian or student understands the purpose of the FAFSA and has chosen not to file the application. It requires the department to make the opt-out form available to school entities and to post the opt-out form on its publicly available internet website. It also requires a school entity to provide a copy of the opt-out form to parents, legal guardians and students.

The legislation provides that if an opt-out form is not submitted on behalf of a student, the school entity may exempt the student from filing a form after making a reasonable effort to contact the parent or legal guardian of the student.

The legislation requires the agency to provide a school entity with information indicating whether a student has completed the FAFSA.

The legislation provides that nothing contained in it shall be construed to require a parent, legal guardian or student from providing financial information to a school entity and that personal financial information inadvertently obtained by a school entity related to the FAFSA filing is not a public record and is not accessible for inspection and duplication in accordance with the Right-to-Know Law.

The legislation defines a "school entity" as an area career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, nonpublic school, private school or regional charter school.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of Senate Bill 750 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

The cost to the Department of Education to develop the opt-out form and make it available to school entities will be minimal and can be accomplished within its existing operating budget.

The requirement for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to provide a school entity with information indicating whether a student has completed the FAFSA will have no fiscal impact on the agency as it already provides this information to school entities.

The costs for school entities to administer the provision contained in the legislation are routine to normal school operations and can be accomplished within their existing operating budgets.