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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

**No. 597**      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY ORIE, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, GORDNER, FOLMER,  
FONTANA, PILEGGI, D. WHITE, BROWNE, TOMLINSON, PIPPY, BAKER,  
EARLL AND RHOADES, MARCH 20, 2007

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 20, 2007

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AN ACT

1 Requiring fiscal notes and a continuing study of all  
2 legislation, regulations and court decisions having a fiscal  
3 impact on public schools.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Public School  
8 Fiscal Impact Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide an  
11 ongoing mechanism to monitor fiscal impacts on public schools,  
12 to review proposed changes and reforms in the public schools and  
13 to review relevant statutes.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Committee." For a bill introduced in the Senate, the

1 Education Committee of the Senate. For a bill introduced in the  
2 House of Representatives, the Education Committee of the House  
3 of Representatives.

4 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 Section 4. Powers and duties.

7 The committee shall have the following powers and duties:

8 (1) To analyze any bill relating to public schools or  
9 public school fiscal policy and to issue a fiscal note  
10 thereto in a timely fashion. Such a fiscal note shall be  
11 submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly and shall  
12 include an assessment of the fiscal impact, feasibility and  
13 cost of such legislation.

14 (2) To monitor and evaluate from time to time all the  
15 laws and systems thereunder which relate to public school  
16 fiscal policy in this Commonwealth.

17 (3) To study the relationship of public school fiscal  
18 policy to other aspects of public school policy and to the  
19 effective operation of government generally.

20 (4) To recommend to the General Assembly a change in the  
21 process by which public school legislation having a fiscal  
22 impact on the Commonwealth or public schools is analyzed and  
23 acted upon by the General Assembly.

24 (5) To issue fiscal impact notes pursuant to section 5.

25 (6) To issue fiscal impact studies pursuant to section  
26 6.

27 Section 5. Fiscal impact notes.

28 (a) Note required for bills.--No bill proposing any change  
29 relative to the imposition or expansion of a mandate on public  
30 schools shall be given second consideration in either house of

1 the General Assembly until the committee has attached a fiscal  
2 impact note which shall include a reliable estimate of the cost  
3 and fiscal effect of the proposed change in any such public  
4 school.

5 (b) Note required for amendments.--No amendment to any bill  
6 concerning the imposition or expansion of a mandate on public  
7 schools shall be considered by either house of the General  
8 Assembly until a fiscal impact note has been attached.

9 (c) Contents of note.--The fiscal impact note shall be  
10 factual and shall, if possible, provide a reliable estimate of  
11 both the immediate cost and effect of the bill and, if  
12 determinable or reasonably foreseeable, the long-range cost and  
13 effect of the measure.

14 (d) Notes for proposed constitutional amendments.--The  
15 committee shall issue a fiscal impact note for any joint  
16 resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
17 Pennsylvania which initially passes either house of the General  
18 Assembly. If said joint resolution is subsequently amended and  
19 passes either house of the General Assembly, a new fiscal impact  
20 note shall be prepared.

21 Section 6. Fiscal impact study.

22 The committee shall conduct a fiscal impact study on any  
23 department regulation, enacted law or judicial decision of an  
24 action in which the department is a party to determine how costs  
25 imposed by the regulation, act or decision will be allocated  
26 between the State and local school districts.

27 Section 7. Reports to be public information.

28 All reports and analyses compiled by the committee shall be  
29 public records and shall be available for public inspection at  
30 the offices of the committee during the usual business hours of

1 the Commonwealth.

2 Section 8. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect in 60 days.