



Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer
Chairman

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BILL SUMMARY

Senate Resolution 250, Printer's No. 1547

Prime Sponsor: Senator Argall

SYNOPSIS:

Senate Resolution 250 directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (Committee) to conduct a study relating to the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of merging public school district health care plans.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Resolution 250 directs the Committee to conduct a study relating to the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of merging public school employees under the same group health benefits package.

The study would include information pertaining to eleven factors, including: current health benefits provided by school entities; current benefit costs for the next five years; costs for the current school employee contribution or average per employee; the impact to PSERS and SERS; comparison of taxpayer coverage within the region; regionalization versus one health care plan; realized cost savings with consortiums; various costs associated with mergers; comparison of school employees versus Commonwealth employees; cost of least used benefits by school employees; and the cost impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

For purposes of this study, health benefits would include medical, dental, vision and prescription drug programs.

The Committee would seek input from the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, as well as various associations, including the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, and group insurance providers.

The Committee must report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than June 30, 2014.

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