



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY
Senate Bill 1440, Printer's No. 1997
Prime Sponsor: Dinniman

Summary

Senate Bill 1440 adds Section 120 to the Public School Code of 1949 to provide reimbursement to school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools for costs incurred should the Department of Education or the State Board of Education reduce the number of Keystone Exams to developed and implemented.

Current law

22 Pa.Code §4.51 (relating to State Assessment System) calls for the development and implementation of ten Keystone Exams (also known as end of course exams) by Fall of 2016. Exams to be developed and offered under this regulation are: Algebra I, Literature, Biology, English Composition, Algebra II, Geometry, US History, Civics and Government, Chemistry and World History.

Analysis

Senate Bill 1440 adds Section 120 (relating to reimbursement of certain costs relating to Keystone Exams) to provide that where the Department of Education or State Board of Education takes action that has the effect of eliminating or limiting the number of Keystone Exams to fewer than 10, the Commonwealth shall, no later than June 30, 2018, reimburse school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools for costs incurred related to the implementation of any subject-specific exam that has been eliminated or will not be developed by June 30, 2018.

Reimbursable costs include expenses related to curriculum development and alignment, professional development and training, local assessment development and validation, and materials, including textbooks and technology.

This legislation requires the Department of Education to publish, within 60 days of the effective date of this bill, in the Pennsylvania Bulletin the anticipated development and implementation schedule of the subject-specific Keystone Exams and to update that schedule each January 1st.

Senate Bill 1440 requires the Department to provide notice to school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools within 30 days of taking action that eliminates or prevents the development of a subject-specific Keystone Exam.

The amendment to Senate Bill 1440 provides the timeframe and information required for a school district, charter school or cyber charter school to request reimbursement.

This legislation takes effect in 60 days.