



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 857, Printer's No. 882
Prime Sponsor: Smucker

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 857 repeals an obsolete fiscal provision which limits school districts' use of increases in basic education funding to create new programs and expand existing programs.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Current law contains a provision pertaining to the 2007-2008 school year which required that any increase in a school district's basic education funding that is above the Act 1 inflation index must be used for a specified list of student services. Section 2502.49 (relating to accountability to Commonwealth taxpayers) specifies what services school districts are allowed to fund with this increase and what percentage of funds are allowed to be spent for those services (e.g., at least 80% of the increase above the inflation index may be used for more classroom time, reducing class size, pre-kindergarten programs, etc.).

The bill repeals Section 2502.49 in its entirety. Although the provision is not currently in effect, the section contains language contemplating its application far into the future. In the current fiscal climate, it is appropriate to repeal outdated language that denied school districts flexibility in spending their basic education funds.

The bill shall take effect immediately.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

The bill repeals Section 2502.49 (relating to accountability to Commonwealth taxpayers) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.