Senate Education Committee
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BILL SUMMARY
Senate Bill 869, Printer's No. 920
Prime Sponsor: Alloway

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 869 would provide that no public school district is required to transport a pupil to any other school or school district outside state borders, except for PDE-approved schools that provide specialized instruction to students with disabilities.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Under current law, a school district may opt to provide transportation for its pupils. If a school district chooses to do so, it must transport all resident school pupils within district boundaries or up to 10 miles outside district boundaries. For school districts located along the Commonwealth's borders, this 10-mile radius often extends into a neighboring state. Since there is no provision in law that stops transportation requirements at the border, a school district that opts to provide transportation for its students is required to transport students to schools located in other states.

Senate Bill 869 would allow for a school district to determine if they wish to transport students to any school or school district outside of the Commonwealth so long as it remains within the 10-mile radius. School districts that provide transportation services will be required to transport students to special schools or classes located outside of the Commonwealth that provide specialized instruction to students with disabilities. These schools and classes must be approved by the PA Department of Education.

The bill shall take effect in 60 days.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

The bill amends Section 1361 (relating to transportation) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.