



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 873, Printer's No. 957

Prime Sponsor: Brubaker

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 873 would direct the PA Department of Education (PDE) to work in conjunction with the State Board of Education to review PDE's PlanCon process and make recommendations and regulations to improve the process.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Current law provides for PDE to review all projects, plans and specifications for school building construction or renovation. School districts must follow a detailed, multi-step reporting process called PlanCon in order to gain official PDE approval on a project and to be eligible for any state funding. Due to budget cuts and the nature of the process itself, there is currently a major backlog of projects in the PlanCon process awaiting final approval from PDE.

Senate Bill 873 would direct PDE to work in conjunction with the State Board of Education to conduct a review of the PlanCon process and make recommendations as to how to eliminate the backlog of projects awaiting review, increase efficiency of the process, and ensure ease of compliance with requirements. PDE and the State Board of Education shall promulgate temporary regulations to implement their recommendations. The temporary regulations shall expire either 18 months from the effective date of the bill or once regulations have been promulgated by PDE and the State Board of Education, whichever is earlier.

The bill shall take effect immediately.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

The bill amends Section 731 (relating to approval by Department of Plans, etc. of Buildings; Exceptions) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.