



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 56 Printer's No. 35

Prime Sponsor: Greenleaf
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

SYNOPSIS:

Establishes the National Guard Youth Challenge Program

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 56 would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) by establishing a new Section 1109 (National Guard Youth Challenge Program). The bill would:

1. Require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish the Program in accordance with 32 U.S.C. §509.
2. Seek to improve the life skills and employment potential of youths who are 16-18 years of age by providing a structured military-based training and supervised work experience; assisting participants with earning a high school diploma or its equivalent; leadership development; promoting fellowship and community service; developing life-coping skills and job skills; and improving physical fitness and health and hygiene.
3. Require a 22-week residential program and a 12-month post-residential mentoring period.
4. Require participants to be residents of the Commonwealth; not be attending a secondary school; not have been convicted of a felony or be on parole or probation; and agree to be drug free.
5. Allow the Program to be staffed by an administrator and professional, technical, and clerical employees necessary.
6. Require the Department to apply for federal matching funds.

Effective Date: 60 Days.

BILL HISTORY:

This legislation was introduced in the prior legislative sessions - 2013-14 (SB 179), 2011-12 (SB 77), 2009-10 (SB 518), and 2007-08 (SB 1271) - but was not taken up by the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Prepared by: N. Silcox 12/7/2015