



Senate Education Committee

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SENATE BILL 1159-SENATORS DINNIMAN/SMUCKER

SYNOPSIS:

Provides for legislative review of the State plan required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

SUMMARY:

Amends the Public School Code to provide for legislative review of the State plan required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Requires the Department of Education to prepare and develop the State plan for the Commonwealth to implement ESSA with meaningful consultation with the majority and minority chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees. Requires the consultation to occur throughout the development of each education initiative required in the State plan by ESSA, including, but not limited to:

- Student academic assessments or any alternatives
- Teacher evaluation
- Low-performing school assessment and improvement
- Vocational-career education academic assessments and standards, and
- School performance measures.

Requires monthly updates during the development of the plan. Requires the department, at least 24 hours prior to the release of any information to the public, to provide the chairs with a copy of any information to be released, including the State plan made available for public comment. Requires a summary of any revisions to the State plan that affect a statute, regulation or department policy.

Requires the department, upon completion of the State plan, to provide a copy of the plan to the Education chairs. Requires a summary of the State plan to be proposed as a resolution and referred to the Education Committee of each house.

Requires the Education Committee of each house to take action on the State plan resolution within 30 calendar days. The resolution may be approved or disapproved by the committees. Upon approval or disapproval, requires the resolution to be reported to the body of each house for its consideration. Requires each house to place the resolution on the calendar and requires action within ten legislative days.

Upon approval or disapproval of the resolution by the Senate and the House of Representatives, requires the department to submit the plan to the United States Secretary of Education. Requires the submission to include the votes of each house and all remarks regarding consideration of the resolution. States that the department may not submit the plan until final disposition of the plan has occurred in each house.

Effective Date: Immediately

BILL HISTORY:

The federal ESSA Act reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Prepared by: Phenicie 3/11/2016