

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Krummel
Prepared By:	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/09, 5/14, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes student achievement activities for which school district or program may use School Improvement Fund grant. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of School Improvement Fund and Pennsylvania accountability block grants
- Advisability of possible local matching grant requirement for some proposed grant activities
- Scope of programs that should be funded by School Improvement Fund
- Research-based student improvement strategies
- Whether or not to include education service districts (ESDs) in School Improvement Fund
- ESD resolution process with component school districts
- Importance of money being spent on school improvement activities
- Importance of updated rules to govern School Improvement Fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the entire text and would: include education service districts (ESDs) as recipients of School Improvement Fund grants; delete language referring to meeting the goals of increasing student achievement; delete the provision directing the Department of Education to establish a program of monetary rewards for school districts/programs demonstrating progress above student achievement goals; delete the provision directing the Department of Education to issue yearly report on the grants, returning to the current language mandating a report once a biennium; clarify that distribution of all money available for a program or school district is to be distributed among programs or school districts that qualify for the grants; clarify that distribution of all money available for ESDs is to be distributed among ESDs that qualify for the grants based on their Average Daily Membership (weighted) (ADMw); delete language rolling over unused funds to the next fiscal year; direct that school districts, the Youth Corrections Education Program, and the Juvenile Detention Education Program will receive 95.25% of the money, with ESDs receiving 4.75% of the money; and direct ESDs to spend the money they receive on services or programs approved by their component school districts.

BACKGROUND: The School Improvement Fund was established in 2001 and funded for one year. The Fund was instituted as a grant program targeted toward increased student achievement and administered by the Department of Education. SB 318 came out of the Senate Commission on Education Excellence that convened during the 2005 Interim. They made several recommendations, one of which was to modify the School Improvement Fund to target investments toward high-priority areas and programs that have shown results.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 318-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 5-0-0 vote, and it passed the Senate 25-3-2.

5/24/2007 10:22:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.