



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1443

PRINTER'S NO. 2810

PRIME SPONSOR: Green

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1443 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by establishing the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety and providing for duties of the council.

ANALYSIS:

This bill adds Chapter 56A (Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety) which establishes definitions, the council, and the council's powers and duties. Section 56A01 (Definitions) outlines definitions, including council, department, playground, and secretary.

Section 56A02 (Council) establishes the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety, which consists of 25 members appointed by the governor and one member appointed by:

- The majority leader of the Senate;
- The minority leader of the Senate;
- The majority leader of the House of Representatives; and
- The minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The members shall serve for 3 years unless they are a cabinet member in which case they serve for the duration of their time in office. This section outlines that members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in accordance with the rules of the executive board.

Section 56A03 (Powers and Duties) outlines that the council shall have the following powers and duties:

- To review and comment to the department, as well as the Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, Labor and Industry, Conservation and Natural Resources, and Environmental Protection on draft regulations and standards as they pertain to playground safety.
- To review and comment to the appropriate legislative committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission any proposed playground safety regulations and standards.
- To assist and advise Commonwealth agencies in their efforts to improve playground safety. This shall include:
 - Recommendations for the implementation and enforcement of regulations and standards;
 - Suggestions regarding sources of fiscal and other support from federal, state, local, and private sources for the upgrade of playgrounds to comply with regulations and standards for safety;
 - Recommendations regarding personnel training in playground safety and inspection;
 - Recommendations for the improvement of playground safety and inspection procedures;
 - Recommendations for the development of a reporting mechanism for parents and others in the community who feel a playground may be unsafe;

- Consideration of safety plan models to be utilized by communities and schools in assisting with their own development of safety plans.
- To meet at least four times per year.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill would have an impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Community and Economic Development notes that while administrative costs can vary greatly, they estimate a cost of \$100,000 annually for providing administrative support to the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety.

PREPARED BY: Chris Fetterman, MPA, Special Advisor
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: March 27, 2024

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.