

FISCAL NOTE

April 3, 2019

Bill No:	SB 144	Printer's No:	340	Sponsor:	Martin (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000

SUMMARY: This bill would establish the Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program.

ANALYSIS: SB 144 establishes the Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program for the purpose of awarding up to \$300,000 in grants to intermediate units for the purchase of telepresence equipment and related support services for the educational support of homebound students.

The Department of Education (PDE) shall develop guidelines for the purchase of equipment and services, establish an application process, provide notice and applications to intermediate units, and adopt guidelines for grant approval.

Each intermediate unit may apply for a grant through the annual application process, with grant amounts determined by the PDE Secretary according to department guidelines. An intermediate unit may not receive an annual grant allocation that exceeds 10 percent of the funds available under the grant program.

Intermediate units shall develop an internal policy for the use of telepresence equipment and related support services prior to applying for a grant, including guidelines for the process by which public schools, nonpublic schools or other educational entities within the intermediate unit may request the use of telepresence equipment through an intermediate unit. An intermediate unit purchasing equipment or service with the grant may not charge schools for the use of the equipment when the equipment is used to support the educational needs of a homebound student.

A public school, nonpublic school or other educational entity within an intermediate unit may request that the intermediate unit modify its policy for the use of telepresence equipment and related support services to meet the needs of a homebound student.

FISCAL IMPACT: PDE shall use up to \$300,000 annually of undistributed funds not expended, encumbered or committed from appropriations for grants and subsidies made to the department to award grants from a restricted account.

This grant is included in the governor's proposed budget.