HCS HB 509 -- STUDENT HEALTH (Stream)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

By July 1, 2011, this substitute requires all school districts to have a physical education program that:

(1) Requires daily participation in physical education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade at a weekly minimum duration specified in the substitute, plus a minimum 20-minute daily recess period for elementary grade students;

(2) Establishes goals and objectives for physical education based on a sequential, developmentally appropriate curriculum, with a minimum of 50% of class time devoted to physical activity, in addition to other requirements specified in the substitute;

(3) Provides for regular assessments on physical fitness proficiency at the local level for attainment of objectives, and in first through eighth grades through the state's physical fitness assessment which are to be reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the June reporting cycle for core data; and

(4) Provides for health-related fitness testing to be integrated into the curriculum as an instructional tool.

Exemptions from taking physical education courses that are based on participation in other activities such as marching band or athletic teams are not permitted. Facilities and equipment as well as teacher requirements are specified. The physical education program must be coordinated with other components of overall school health programs, local wellness policies, and health education and physical education grade level expectations. Any certificated teacher will be allowed to fulfill the new requirements if the General Assembly doesn't appropriate sufficient funds above the amount required for basic school aid.

The substitute also requires school meals to derive no more than 30% of their calories from fat and to limit saturated fat to less than 10% of the calories as measured over the school day including breakfast and lunch and establishes minimum nutritional standards for food and beverages sold or provided to students during the school day. Snacks must not exceed specified calorie, sugar, and fat contents; and beverages are limited to certain juices and juice drinks, water and zero-calorie flavored water, and lowfat and nonfat milks. Foods that compete with school lunches are limited in their hours and locations of sale, and any money from these sales must go to the school's nutrition program account.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown - Expected to exceed \$100,000 in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.