



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 894

PRINTER'S NO: 1013

PRIME SPONSOR: Phillips

As amended by A07926

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	See Analysis

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 894, as amended by A07926, would establish a task force under the Department of Health (DOH) and an information campaign relating to Lyme disease and its related maladies. In addition, the bill requires coverage for tick-borne illnesses amongst health care policies issued in the commonwealth. The bill also includes provisions permitting licensed physicians or doctors of osteopathy to prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic and microbial treatment for Lyme disease or related tick-borne illnesses.

As amended, the provisions relating to the task-force and public information campaign would not take effect until funds are available for these purposes. The remainder of the act would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

Considering the date of consideration of this legislation, no fiscal impact is expected in 2009/10.

For future fiscal years, under the bill, the task force shall convene within 90 days after all appointments have been made and shall meet at least quarterly. While members of the task force will not be compensated for their services, they shall be reimbursed by DOH for actual and necessary expenses.

The Department of Health also is required to develop a public information and education program regarding Lyme disease. The program shall include the dissemination of information to licensees under the Pennsylvania Game Commission and to the general public and visitors of State parks and lands.

As mentioned above, as amended, the provisions relating to the task-force and public information campaign would not take effect until funds are available for these purposes. According to the agencies, these provisions may cost over \$2 million for the departments of Health, Conservation and Natural Resources (which oversees State parks and lands), and the Pennsylvania Game Commission to the public information campaign on Lyme disease.

The provisions relating to insurance coverage for tick-borne illnesses are not expected to have a significant cost to the commonwealth. The provisions should not impact the Medical Assistance program, which is not defined as a health care policy, type of insurance or a health insurer. These provisions may result in a slight cost to the Public Employees Benefit Trust Fund (PEBTF). Traditionally, PEBTF has aligned its benefit package with any benefits statutorily required of other insurers. This fiscal analysis assumes that these minimal costs would not significantly impact commonwealth funds.

Lastly, provisions permitting licensed physicians or doctors of osteopathy to prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic and microbial treatment for Lyme disease or related tick-borne illnesses are not expected to impact commonwealth funds.

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General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*