



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**  
2009-10 Legislative Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

**HOUSE BILL:** 1609      **PRINTER'S NO:** 2001      **PRIME SPONSOR:** Freeman

<b>FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY</b>	<b>FY 2008/09</b>	<b>FY 2009/10</b>
<b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b>		
Local Government Funds <sup>1</sup>	\$0	\$0

<sup>1</sup>Excludes Philadelphia and Pittsburgh who are not impacted by this bill.

**OVERVIEW:**

House Bill 1609 amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (1968 P.L. 805, No. 247) with respect to traditional neighborhood development in order to enhance a municipality's ability to use this zoning option in more circumstances. It does this by broadening the definition and applicability and by removing the restriction that office and commercial uses shall be in the "center" of a development. The bill also would allow a municipality to incorporate its manual of written and graphic design for traditional neighborhood development as part of its subdivision and land development ordinance or zoning ordinance or both.

The Code defines a municipality as "any city of the second class A or third class, borough, incorporated town, township of the first or second class, county of the second class through eighth class, home rule municipality, or any similar general purpose unit of government which shall hereafter be created by the General Assembly." This definition excludes Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Pennsylvania has 67 counties with Philadelphia County being the only one not covered by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. According the Pennsylvania Local Government Fact Sheet, published by the Department of Community and Economic Development (January 7, 2008), there are 2,563 municipalities, consisting of one first class city (Philadelphia—excluded under the Code), one second class city (Pittsburgh—excluded under the Code), one second class A city (Scranton), 53 third class cities, 959 boroughs, 92 first class townships, 1,455 second class townships, and one town (Bloomsburg).

The effective date is sixty days.

**ANALYSIS:**

This bill does not mandate any new responsibility or cost onto municipalities, as defined by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, but allows more flexibility and circumstances with respect to traditional neighborhood development, including the ability to include its manual of written and graphic design as part of its subdivision and land development ordinance or zoning ordinance or both. This bill will have no adverse impact on local government funds.

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this fiscal note: Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Local Government Commission, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, and the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs.

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**DATE:** June 17, 2009

**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.*