



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 2477

PRINTER'S NO: 3882

PRIME SPONSOR: Fabrizio

As amendment by Amendment A07852

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Estimated Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
Erie County Convention Center Authority	\$0	\$0 to \$1,483

OVERVIEW:

This bill changes the appointing authority and expands the board of convention center authorities for Third Class Counties who have chosen to form such an authority under the Third Class County Convention Center Authority Act (Alternative Provision), which is found in subdivision "o" of Article VIII of The County Code (1955, P.L. 323, Act 130).

This bill would immediately impact Erie County as it is the only Third Class County that has formed a county convention center authority under subdivision "o". It does not apply to Berks County, Lancaster County, and Luzerne County who all have formed county convention centers under different provisions of law. The remaining third class counties—Chester, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Westmoreland, and York—may opt to form a convention center authority sometime in the future under the provisions of this subdivision, unless that county is served by a joint planning commission with at least one other county (q.v., §2399.52(c)(2)(ii)).

Specifically, the bill increases the size of the board from nine to eleven members. The mayor of the City of Erie now has three appointments, but the bill reduces the number to two. Furthermore, the mayor will no longer require the advice and consent of city council. The county executive, with the advice and consent of county council, now has four appointments, but this appointing power will be eliminated. In its place, the county council itself would receive seven appointments. The two appointments from the Governor are unchanged. The bill is structured so that the appointments from the new appointing authorities only take effect when the terms of office of the current members expire or there is a vacancy.

For future third class county convention authorities, the bill provides that if the facilities of the convention center are located in a municipality where there is no mayor, then the governing body of that municipality would make the two appointments. Likewise, if a third class county does not have a county council, then the governing body, which would in this case be the county commissioners, would make the seven appointments,

The effective date is immediate.

ANALYSIS:

Upon enactment, the board for the Erie County Convention Center Board will likely increase by two members. The County Council would receive three immediate appointments, but the mayor loses one appointment. Because there is a mayoral appointment on the board whose term has expired but who is awaiting for a successor or reappointment pursuant to §2399.61(a)(4)(b), this position will expire immediately upon the effective date.

Pursuant subdivision “o”, no board member receives compensation but they may be reimbursed for expenses. In 2009, the total reimbursed expenses were \$6,674.50, which averages to \$741.61 per member. According to officials of the Authority, however, 2009 was an unusual year, and normally there are no reimbursements for expenses of board members. For 2010, for example, there have been no requests for reimbursements submitted by board members, and there were no reimbursements for members for at least eight years prior. Using 2009 as a basis for projecting the cost of this bill—which yields \$1,482.22 because the board will expand by two members—will likely yield a high estimate given recent history. It may be best to represent the cost of this bill to the Authority by stating it as a range from \$0 to \$1,483.22, with the notation that it would more likely be zero for most years given recent history.

The following sources were used in the preparation of this fiscal note: the Local Government Commission, the Erie County Convention Center Authority, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Manual, and staff of the House Local Government Committee.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: June 22, 2010

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.*