



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1632

PRINTERS NO. 2512

PRIME SPONSOR: Knowles

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1632, Printer's Number 2512, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to provide for a volunteer emergency responders employer tax credit.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize a tax credit for private sector employers which allow employees who are volunteer first responders to leave work to answer an emergency call or to attend training.

It establishes employment protections for private and public sector employees who, as volunteer emergency service members, leave work to respond to an emergency or to attend training. Such employee protections include:

- Prohibits an employer from refusing to hire or employ an individual because the individual is a member of a volunteer emergency service organization;
- Prohibits an employer from discriminating against or disciplining an employee-volunteer in reference to salary, hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment if the employee-volunteer responds to an emergency call, resulting in a loss of time from employment; and
- Prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee-volunteer because of an injury acquired in the line of duty, with regard to compensation, hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment.

The bill also provides incentives and guidelines for private and public employers of such emergency responders. A taxpayer shall be eligible to receive a tax credit against any qualified tax liability if the taxpayer permits an employee-volunteer to take a paid leave of absence in response to an emergency call or other eligible volunteer-related activity, such as emergency services training, as outlined in the legislation.

A private sector employer tax credit will be based on a tax credit certificate issued by the Department of Revenue and may not exceed more than 50% of the taxpayer's qualified tax liability. The department may not grant more than \$5 million in tax credit certificates in any fiscal year, and no more than \$10,000 to a single tax payer.

It also authorizes the Commonwealth and political subdivisions to grant leave to an employee-volunteer who leaves work to respond to an emergency call, with or without loss of pay, and no loss of time or efficiency rating.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation could result in the reduction of General Fund revenues by \$5 million annually, which would assume that all eligible tax credit certificates would be issued by the Department of Revenue.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeffrey Clukey  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 21, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*