



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 683

PRINTER'S NO. 1286

PRIME SPONSOR: Mastriano

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to provide for additional mandatory drug testing in some situations.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 683, Printer's Number 1286 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add provisions requiring that if urine drug screening is performed at an acute care hospital as part of diagnosing a patient, the urine test shall also include drug screening for fentanyl and xylazine.

It further provides that if the urine screening detects fentanyl or xylazine, then those results must be transmitted to the Department of Health in a manner to be determined by the department in consultation with stakeholders. The department is also required to establish screening thresholds for reporting positive fentanyl results to the department. Both the manner of submitting test results and the screening threshold for fentanyl must be transmitted by the department to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The reporting requirements do not apply if a health care practitioner at the emergency department determines that a positive fentanyl test is due to a legally prescribed course of treatment.

The legislation also provides that the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture, must develop education materials related to xylazine. Those materials are to be developed in consultation with physicians, veterinarians, hospitals, community health centers, and other stakeholders. Those materials are to include information on the effects of xylazine use, the legitimate uses of xylazine, and how to discuss xylazine with family and friends.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are potential costs for the Department of Health to upgrade the existing database. The extent of the updates required will depend on the process selected by the department for collecting the positive drug screening results from hospitals. At this time, prior to selecting a process for information collecting, the department does not have a firm estimate of those costs. However, the department does not expect those costs, if they arise, to exceed \$250,000.

Any fiscal impact to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs is expected to be de minimis and manageable within its existing budget, as the department already produces and distributes educational materials on similar subjects. Additionally, the department will be able to share the cost of developing the required resources with the external partners described in the legislation.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: December 13, 2023

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