

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1424

PRINTER'S NO. 1852

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

PA Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 2, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Bloom

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, May 2, 2011

Reported as amended, May 11, 2011

First consideration, May 11, 2011

Laid on the table, May 11, 2011

Removed from table, May 23, 2011

Second consideration, May 24, 2011

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, May 24, 2011

Re-reported as committed, May 25, 2011

Third consideration and final passage, May 25, 2011 (199-0)

In the Senate

Referred to AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, June 3, 2011

Reported as committed, June 14, 2011

First consideration, June 14, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 23, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Sept. 19, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1424 establishes a new chapter in Title (3) Agriculture to statutorily authorize the PA Preferred program, which is used to promote Pennsylvania's agricultural products.

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to create, license, protect and promote the PA Preferred Trademark for use and sale of agricultural products produced in the Commonwealth. It provides for entities which produce, process and market Pennsylvania's agricultural products; public eating and drinking places with qualifying menu items; and, persons approved by the department to promote the use of the trademark to be licensed to use the trademark.

The bill allows the department to charge licensees' for costs incurred for participation in the program and charge for costs related to materials provided by the department to a licensee to promote the program. It provides for civil penalties up to \$10,000 to be assessed upon persons violating the trademark provisions.

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The bill establishes The PA Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund in State Treasury. Funds related to the program from appropriations, licensing, material sales and penalties are to be deposited in the fund. It also provides that monies in the fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund but shall remain in and be used by the department for the PA Preferred program.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 1424 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. Monies deposited into The PA Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund are to be used to support the program.