

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 815

**PRINTER NO.** 874

**AMOUNT**

\$5,268,000

**FUND**

General Fund Restricted Revenue Account

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 8, 2015

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Hughes

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 815 appropriates \$5,268,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") in the Office of Attorney General.

The OCA represents Pennsylvania utility consumers in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") and other state and federal agencies and in courts. The OCA also represents the interests of Pennsylvania consumers in non-governmental organizations, such as the PJM Interconnection.

The OCA is funded through a direct assessment on the companies that are under the jurisdiction of the PUC. No General Fund revenues are used to support the OCA's operations.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, or immediately, whichever is later.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 815 reflects the Governor's Executive Budget recommended fiscal year 2015-16 appropriation of \$5,268,000 for the OCA, which is an increase of \$103,000, or 2.0%, compared with the fiscal year 2014-15 appropriation of \$5,165,000.