

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 118

PRINTER NO. 2256

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 1, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Kaufer

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 118 addresses the administrative operations of state government and makes various fee changes to meet the requirements of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and to implement the General Appropriation Act of 2017. A summary of the bill's provisions and their related fiscal impacts follows.

FISCAL IMPACT

Emergency Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Program

Establishes the Emergency Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Program in the Department of Health and requires the department to provide priority review of applications for licensure.

Fiscal Impact: No adverse fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. If there is a significant number of new facilities requesting licensure, the department might require additional licensing staff at an approximate cost of \$93,000 annually per position.

Department of Revenue Fingerprinting Provisions

Imposes a requirement for any Department of Revenue employee that has access to Federal tax information to be subject to a criminal history record check and to provide fingerprints.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact to the Commonwealth

Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Board

Allows the Attorney General to provide a designee to the PCCD Board. In addition, permits legislators who are members of the PCCD Board to designate legislative staff to be their alternate to the Board.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact to the Commonwealth

Death Certificate Fees

Provides for a fee increase in death certificate costs from \$9 to \$20.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated to generate an additional \$2 million in revenue this fiscal year.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

Labor and Industry Fees

Provides for fee increases for various programs operated within the Department of Labor and Industry, including boiler inspections, elevator inspections, compressed natural gas registrations and plans, and Uniform Commercial Code certifications and building inspections.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated to generate \$9.7 million in additional revenue this fiscal year.

Criminal History Record Check Fees

Permits the State Police to increase criminal history record check fees by publishing a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated to generate an additional \$28 million in revenue this fiscal year.

Attorney General Fees

Allows the Attorney General to retain up to 25% of collection amounts to a maximum of \$2.5 million annually. In addition, establishes a new permanent fee of \$2.50 to be applied to conviction or guilty pleas.

Fiscal Impact: The retainage of 25% of collections is anticipated to generate \$2.5 million annually, and the \$2.50 fee is estimated to produce approximately \$5 million a year.

Public Notice for State Correctional Institution Closures

Requires the Department of Corrections to hold a public hearing prior to closing a State Correctional Institution.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact; costs of a public hearing are expected to be minimal and able to be absorbed within funding available to the Department.

Higher Education Regulatory Fees

Provides for the Department of Education to collect fees for services provided to degree-granting institutions.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated to generate an additional \$290,000 in FY 2017-18.

Joint Underwriting Association (JUA)

Affirms that the JUA is an instrumentality of the Commonwealth and that funds under the control of the JUA belong to the Commonwealth. Transfers \$200 million from the JUA to the State Treasurer no later than September 1, 2017.

Fiscal Impact: Generates \$200 million of revenue for the General Fund in FY 2017-18.

Recycling Fee

Removes the January 1, 2020 sunset for the \$2/ton fee on all waste disposed of in landfills or processed by resource recovery facilities.

Fiscal Impact: No additional fiscal impact through the extension of this fee. In the current fiscal year, recycling fees are estimated to generate \$38 million.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

State Park Feasibility Study

Requires the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a State Park in Wyoming County within one year.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact; costs of the study can be absorbed within funding available to the Department.

Dispensing Fee for PACE and PACENET

Lowers the professional dispensing fee for the PACE and PACENET programs from \$13 to \$10.49.

Fiscal Impact: Results in \$15.1 million of savings to the Lottery Fund during FY 2017-18, increasing to \$20.2 million in FY 2018-19.

Child Protective Services Fees

Provides for a fee increase from \$8 to \$13 for child protective certification fees and continues the fee exemption for volunteers.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated to generate an additional \$2.9 million in revenue this fiscal year.

Senior Judge Operational Support Grants

Renews the senior judge grant program retroactive to June 30, 2017.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. Funding in the amount of \$1.375 million has already been appropriated for this purpose in this year's budget.

Judicial Fees

Extends the expiration date of the \$11.25 judicial surcharge under Title 42 to December 31, 2020.

Fiscal Impact: No additional fiscal impact from the extension of this surcharge. In the current fiscal year, this surcharge is estimated to generate approximately \$25 million.