



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 65

PRINTER'S NO: 4015

PRIME SPONSOR: Deasy

As amended by A08313

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	See analysis
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	See analysis

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 65, Printer's Number 4015 amends Title 22 (Detectives and Private Police) and the Private Detective Act of 1953 by establishing a State Board of Private Investigators, Security Professionals and Fugitive Recovery Agents in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs within the Department of State. The 17 member board would be responsible for licensing both persons and business entities for private investigators, security professionals and fugitive recovery agents. The board will be authorized to contract for the development of entrance examinations; develop mandatory continuing education requirements; develop rules of professional conduct; establish fees and penalties sufficient to meet the Board's administrative costs; enforce licensure of the profession, including discipline of license holders and actions against unlicensed practice; conduct criminal background checks; maintain records and rosters of licensees; and develop standards to request the assistance of law enforcement. In addition, it creates a new criminal offense of impersonating a private investigator, security professional or fugitive recovery agent. The bill also requires firearms training provided by the State Police.

The bill as amended will take effect in parts. The board and the appropriation from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account will take effect on July 1, 2011. The remaining provisions will take effect on January 1, 2012.

ANALYSIS:

The bill as amended provides a \$150,000 continuing appropriation from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account in the 2011/12 fiscal year to provide start-up funding for the board before fees can be collected to fund the ongoing operations of the board. If the \$150,000 sum is insufficient to cover the costs, additional funding may be appropriated from the account upon approval of the Governor. The Department of State estimates that the board will need approximately \$542,000 to start operations, so it is likely that this provision will be triggered. The appropriation will be repaid by the board within three years of the beginning of the license issuances.

The bill requires the commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police to establish and administer or approve a lethal weapons education and training program; certify individuals who have completed the requirements; and make rules and regulations to implement the program. The Pennsylvania State Police have indicated that this section would require a new staff person to coordinate the effort, with an estimated cost of approximately \$55,000/year. The legislation permits the commissioner to collect fees, which the State Police has indicated will be sufficient to cover cost of the additional employee.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: July 1, 2010

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*