



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
2009-10 Legislative Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

HOUSE BILL: 621

PRINTER'S NO: 680

PRIME SPONSOR: Curry

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10
<b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b>		
General Fund	\$0	negligible

**OVERVIEW:**

This bill adopts the Eastern Box Turtle as the official reptile of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Manual (Volume 118) lists the following state symbols: Whitetail Deer (animal), Ruffed Grouse (game bird), Great Dane (dog), Brook Trout (fish), Mountain Laurel (flower), Firefly (insect), Milk (drink), Hemlock (tree), U.S. Brig Niagara (ship), Penngift Crownvetch (plant), Phacops Rana (fossil), the Pennsylvania Railroad K4s (steam locomotive), and the Pennsylvania Railroad GG1 Locomotive 4859 (electric locomotive).

The Pennsylvania Manual is printed every other year by the Department of General Services. The section on state symbols comprises only three pages of the 1,042 page manual. The General Appropriation Act of 2008 (Act No. 38A) provides a \$159,000 appropriation out of the General Fund to the department for the printing of the manual for FY 2008/09. The cost of printing is the same as it was in FY 2006/07, and the Governor's Executive Budget proposal anticipates the same cost again in FY 2010/11.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) tracks information on state symbols and has a page on its website on the history, past and present, of state symbols. The General Appropriation Act of 2008 (Act No. 38A) provides \$25,825,000 to PHMC for general government operations for FY 2008/09, of which \$1,396,000 has been placed in budgetary reserves, and the Governor has proposed \$24,000,000 for this line item for FY 2009/10.

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) includes a page on its website under tourism on state symbols and related information. The General Appropriation Act of 2008 (Act No. 38A) provides \$16,909,000 to DCED for marketing to attract tourism, which is the appropriation that maintains the website and of which \$855,000 has been placed in budgetary reserves, for FY 2008/09, and the Governor has proposed \$9,985,000 for this line item for FY 2009/10.

The Chief Clerk Office of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives provides a publication entitled *Hello Pennsylvania* that includes a listing of the state symbols, and the Senate Office of the Secretary provides a publication entitled *Pennsylvania State Symbols*. The General Appropriation Act of 2008 (Act No. 38A) provides \$16,187,000 and \$17,471,000 to Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, for printing services.

The Capitol Tour Guide Office operates the Welcome Center that has an interactive exhibit that includes questions on some of Pennsylvania's state symbols. In 1991, the Capitol Tour Guide Office was transferred from the Department of General Services to the General Assembly. It is jointly funded by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The effective date is immediate.

**ANALYSIS:**

According to the Department of General Services, if this bill is enacted prior to the end of June, 2009, then the Eastern Box Turtle as the official reptile would be included in the December 2009 Pennsylvania Manual (Volume 119). The Department would require artwork of a turtle to use in the publication, and it anticipates this cost will be negligible, perhaps less or much less than \$50. This cost would be easily absorbed by the \$159,000 budget to print the manual. If enactment of this bill happens too late to be included in the 119<sup>th</sup> volume, then it is highly unlikely that the Department would revise the manual prior to the 120<sup>th</sup> volume in December 2011.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Department of Community and Economic Development will likely update their websites to include the new official state reptile. The Commission and the Department would use current resources, and the costs are negligible.

According to the Office of the Secretary of the Senate and the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, it is unlikely that their publications that include information on state symbols would be revised until the current publications run out or if there are available resources. The costs for revision would be negligible, and any reprinting of these publications would have occurred anyway irrespective of the Eastern Box Turtle designation.

Because the Welcome Center's interactive display which includes a sample of state symbols does not attempt to list them comprehensively, there would be no need to modify the display. Thus this bill has no fiscal impact on the Welcome Center.

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this fiscal note: the Department of General Services, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Senate, Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Capitol Tour Guide Office.

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**DATE:** May 4, 2009

**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.*