



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

## FISCAL NOTE

**HOUSE BILL:** 926

**PRINTER'S NO:** 1279

**PRIME SPONSOR:** Seip

As amended by A00889

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

### OVERVIEW:

House Bill 926 amends the Workforce Development Act of 2001 to establish the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers in statute with administrative support provided by the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I). Under the act, the Center's purpose will be to monitor and develop initiatives addressing the Commonwealth's health care workforce. Under this legislation, the Center's duties include, but not limited to: (1) evaluating the needs of the current health care workforce, education capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts; (2) researching, developing, and assessing of initiatives; (3) assisting the Health Careers Leadership Council and implementing strategies developed by the council; and (4) submitting an annual report to the General Assembly summarizing activities and making recommendations.

In addition, the act would provide a seat on the Statewide Workforce Investment Board for a member of the Center's Leadership Council.

In addition, this bill creates the Health Careers Leadership Council to oversee the activities of the center. Members of the Council would include: the Secretaries of Labor and Industry, State, Health, and Public Welfare (or their designees); four appointees of the General Assembly; and appointees made the Governor in consultation with the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board, including health care professionals and organizations, labor organization representatives, educators, and statewide health care association representatives. The act provides that the Council will not receive compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

As amended by A00889, the act specifies that the establishment of the Center is dependent on the availability of funds.

This act would take effect immediately.

### ANALYSIS:

In 2004, the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers within the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board of the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) was created to address the need for health care workers. The Center and its related activities have been funded within current Department operating budgets since 2004. The cost of administering the Center is approximately \$200,000 annually.

The 2008/09 General Fund budget provides funding for this initiative under the Nurse Shortage Initiative Appropriation, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between L&I the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). The Nurse Shortage Initiative appropriation is funded at \$2.418 million, including the \$200,000 for the operation of the Center. Therefore, this legislation would carry no additional cost in the current year.

As amended, the act specifies that the establishment of the Center is dependent on the availability of funds. The Governor's 2009/10 proposed budget requests the same amount of funding for the operation of the Center.

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**DATE:** April 27, 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.*