



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

## FISCAL NOTE

**HOUSE BILL:** 1358

**PRINTER'S NO:** 2640

**PRIME SPONSOR:** Quinn

As amended by A09202

| FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY                   | FY 2010/11   | FY 2011/12   |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b> |              |              |
| General Fund                            | See Analysis | See Analysis |

### OVERVIEW:

House Bill 1358, as amended by A09202, creates a freestanding act entitled the "Patient Test Result Information Act." The act provides that copies of patient test results relating to diagnostic imaging services (as defined in the act) be sent directly to patients. An entity providing diagnostic imaging services is required to comply with the act. The entity must provide a patient with a written copy of test results within ten days of sending the results to the patient's prescribing physician. The written copy may be sent electronically by email or facsimile. The bill exempts routine obstetrical ultrasounds to monitor the development of a fetus.

As amended, implementation of the provisions in the act are contingent upon funds being available for the Department of Health to maintain an appropriate level of staff necessary to perform necessary compliance investigations. The department must give notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin at the time when the provisions shall take effect.

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

### ANALYSIS:

Under the Health Care Facilities Act, the Department of Health currently performs compliance reviews of health care entities to ensure compliance with state law. While the department cannot anticipate the number of complaints under this act that may result in a compliance investigation, they note that even if one percent of the summaries generate a complaint that would equate to nearly 40,000 potential new claims annually. As a result, the department anticipates an increased workload. According to the department, up to 12 new positions (one per field office) may be necessary to comply with the enforcement of House Bill 1358. The department estimates a total estimated annual cost of \$975,000.

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**DATE:** September 28, 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.*