



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 1516

PRINTER'S NO: 2062

PRIME SPONSOR: Freeman

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
Third Class City Funds	\$0	\$0

OVERVIEW:

This bill amends the act of May 31, 1933 (P.L. 1108, No. 272) dealing with firefighter civil service provisions for Third Class Cities. According to the Local Government Commission, this bill brings Act 272 into compliance with regulations and court decisions relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (1955 Act 222).

Specifically, the bill clarifies that candidates shall submit to physical and agility tests (§4) as opposed to ADA prohibited pre-offer medical examinations; removes the ability of the city to disqualify someone on the basis of disability due to past or current addiction to alcohol or past addiction to narcotics (§5(a)); specifies when medical examinations may occur in relation to written examinations, how veteran preference points are to be awarded, and how long eligibility lists are in effect (§6(a)); clarifies reasons that a newly hired officer or firefighter during the probationary period may be dismissed (§6(b)); more clearly defines medical and psychological examinations and the procedure by which they may be administered (§9); and relocates existing language relating to age requirements for new hires.

According the Pennsylvania Local Government Fact Sheet, published by the Department of Community and Economic Development (January 7, 2008), there are 53 third class cities.

The effective date is immediate.

ANALYSIS:

This bill brings Act 272 into compliance with Federal law, regulations, and court decisions. It does not impose any administrative procedure or cost other than what is current standard practice. Updating Act 272, however, may save a city from the expense of a lawsuit by eliminating the possibility of city officials inadvertently following the Act which is presently out of compliance with Federal standards.

The Local Government Commission provided information used in this fiscal note.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: June 16, 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.*