



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 1990

PRINTER'S NO: 2692

PRIME SPONSOR: Gabler

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Estimated Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
County Funds for each county ¹	\$0	\$300

¹ Although this legislation does not apply to Philadelphia, Allegheny, Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery counties as a matter of statute, it will impact these counties as a matter of practice.

OVERVIEW:

This bill amends §444 of the County Code (Act 130 of 1955 as amended by Act 18 of 2002) to increase annual payments from the counties for expenses relating to an association for the directors of veterans' affairs, i.e., the Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs.

Section 444 currently provides that each county with an officer who is a member of an association for directors of veterans' affairs shall pay up to \$100 for "the necessary expenses of the annual meetings," which includes "annual association dues, printing, committee expenses and stenographical expense." This bill increases the payment limit to \$400.

This provision of the County Code applies to the sixty-two counties of the third through eighth class. It does not apply statutorily to First Class Counties (Philadelphia), Second Class Counties (Allegheny), and Second Class A Counties (Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery). Section 436 of the Second Class County Code (Act of Jul. 28, 1953, P.L. 723, No. 230) mandates that Second Class counties pay \$1,000 and Second Class A counties pay \$800 to the association for these expenses. As a matter of practice; however, the Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs charges each county the same amount despite the higher amount authorized by the Second Class County Code. No provision of state law was found applying to Philadelphia, but the Philadelphia Veterans Advisory Commission forwards bills from the association to City Council, who then approves payment.

The effective date is sixty days.

ANALYSIS:

Section 444 of the County Code mandates that these expenses "shall be paid" by the counties when they have a veterans' affairs director who is member of the association. Delaware and Chester counties typically do not participate in the statewide association. The potential increase for the other counties is \$300 per county. If, however, the cost for these expenses averages out to be less than \$400, then each county will owe less than the \$300 increase.

The Local Government Commission, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs, and the directors for the veterans' affairs offices of Allegheny, Dauphin, Lycoming, Mercer, and Philadelphia counties were consulted in preparation of this fiscal note.

PREPARED BY: Erik Randolph, Senior Analyst
House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: April 26, 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.*