



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL: 240

PRINTER'S NO: 1071

PRIME SPONSOR: Baker

As amended by A02701

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0*	\$0*

* See analysis

OVERVIEW:

Senate Bill 240, as amended by A02701, amends Title 35 (Health & Safety) and Title 75 (Transportation), replacing the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1985. These revisions would define of the scope and practice of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers according to national standards of practice rather than having it based on the EMS curriculum.

Under the act, the Department of Health would be the lead agency for EMS activities in the Commonwealth. The department would be responsible for regulations; oversight (including disciplinary actions); data collection; licensure and oversight of emergency medical related agencies, personnel and services; inspection of EMS agencies; investigating complaints, establishing protocols, and development of a statewide plan. The act also provides for conditional temporary licensure, corrective plans of action and license sanctions. The department will have authority to assess civil money penalties.

The act addresses trauma center accreditation under the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation. In addition, the act integrates all trauma centers into the statewide EMS system. In addition, the act addresses the composition and duties of a State Advisory Board. The act includes provisions regarding the establishment of regional EMS councils, which the department may award grants and contracts using Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund money within the defined purposes in the act.

Amendment A02701 specifies that trauma centers that “receive or seek to receive Commonwealth funds” are included in the provisions of the act. The amendment addresses concerns about trauma centers in bordering states serving Pennsylvanians when necessary.

The provisions of Title 35 pertaining to the Emergency Medical Services program shall take effect 180 days after publication of the notice under section 7 of the act. The provisions of Title 75 will take effect immediately. The remainder of the act shall take effect in 180 days.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 240 would require the Department of Health to make informational technology (software) changes totaling \$55,000. The ability of the department to assess civil money penalties is expected to generate approximately \$10,000 annually. The department also notes possible cost-savings (relating to staff responsibilities) due to the redesign. The department will be able to address the required changes under the act within its operating budget.

PREPARED BY: Lisa M. Fleming, Budget Analyst
House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: July 15, 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.*