



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1174

PRINTERS NO. 2350

PRIME SPONSOR: Yaw

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Housing Authority Funds	\$0	Minimal
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Amends the Housing Authorities Law (Act 265 of 1937) concerning appointments and terms of members of a housing authority board in a city of the first class and second class. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation would amend the Housing Authorities Law by expanding the size of the housing authority board of a city of the first class from five to nine members, two of whom shall be residents of public housing owned or controlled by the authority. The mayor appoints all members, subject to confirmation by the city council, for terms concurrent with the appointing mayor. No elected official may serve as a member of the authority.

The public housing resident members are chosen according to a nomination process agreed to by the mayor, the president of the city council and the executive director of the authority. Effective January 1, 2016, the mayor of a city of the first class may, without cause, remove up to five members of the housing authority during any one calendar year with resulting vacancies filled pursuant to the new appointment process provided for under this legislation.

Under the legislation, if a vacancy exists at the time this legislation becomes effective and if city council fails to act on such a vacancy within 60 days of the mayor's submission of the nomination, the mayor may make the appointment without the approval of council.

The legislation further provides that as many appointments as necessary may be made by the mayor in this manner to bring membership of the authority up to five members. For the purpose of conducting authority business, a majority of members of the authority then in office will constitute a quorum.

The legislation also provides for a clarification that in cities of the second class, the mayor shall appoint a total of seven members of the housing authority.

The legislation adds the following provisions for the Philadelphia Housing Authority:

- Stipulates that the executive director and staff with executive duties shall be at-will employees of the authority who shall serve at the pleasure of the members of the authority.
- Prohibits the authority from providing anything of value to employees upon separation from employment, other than the salary and benefits to which they are entitled.
- Requires the authority to maintain and monitor a whistleblower hotline for wrongdoing in connection with the affairs of the authority.
- Requires the authority to ensure compliance with all requirements imposed by federal law regarding criminal activity by tenants and prospective tenants.
- Prohibits the authority from approving or renewing any person or firm as a landlord in the federal housing choice voucher program, if the person or firm is delinquent on any real property tax due on the property for which approval or renewal is sought.
- Requires the authority to prepare an annual written report for submission to the DCED, the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate, the chair and minority chair of the House Urban Affairs Committee, the chair and minority chair of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee, the mayor and the president of city council.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth, municipal, or the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh funds. The legislation would add minimal costs to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for reimbursable expenses for the expansion of the board from 5 to 9 members.

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Rodrigo  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 30, 2012

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*