



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 84

PRINTERS NO. 62

PRIME SPONSOR: Miller

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 84, Printer's Number 62, amends the Agricultural Area Security Law to provide for inspections of preserved farmland and nullifying certain provisions in regulation. This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43 of 1981) by requiring a county board to inspect all agricultural conservation easements within the county once every two years to determine compliance with the deed of easement for the farm.

Several other conditions shall apply related to inspections, including: the first inspection shall be completed within one year of the date of easement sale, and inspections shall be conducted on a date and time agreeable to both the county and the landowner.

The county board is required to prepare a written inspection report within ten days of the inspection and provide this to the landowner. If a violation is discovered, the report shall be provided to the landowner by certified mail. The county board and the State board may inspect the restricted land, jointly or severally, without prior notice if there is reasonable cause of any violation to any provision of the deed of easement.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of the legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. It is expected that these changes may produce significant savings to county farmland preservation programs by reducing some of the current inspection and administrative requirements.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 18, 2013

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