



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 391

PRINTERS NO. 2491 PRIME SPONSOR: McGeehan

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0
City of Philadelphia Funds	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
School District of Philadelphia Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to allow Philadelphia to collect property taxes through installment payments, to prohibit the homestead property exclusion on certain properties and to provide for confidentiality of tax information. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: The legislation authorizes the governing body of the city of Philadelphia to collect real estate taxes through periodic installment payments and to determine who will be eligible for the program and how often the installments will be collected.

The legislation also prohibits the City of Philadelphia from authorizing a homestead property exclusion for property that, for the same tax year to which the homestead property exclusion would otherwise apply, has an exemption from real property taxation under the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act (Act 34 of 1971).

This legislation also adds a subchapter providing for the confidentiality of tax records in the City of Philadelphia. A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon conviction, be ordered to pay a fine of not more than \$2,500 and costs or to a term of imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. If the person is an officer or employee of the city, the officer or employee shall be dismissed from office or discharged from employment.

FISCAL IMPACT: In the event that a prison sentence is ordered for a conviction of someone who publishes confidential tax information under Section 8921, this could result in some additional imprisonment costs to the City of Philadelphia. It is impossible to project how many of these violations may occur, if any, and the corresponding prison sentence, if any. It is anticipated that any additional costs could be absorbed within available funds.

The remainder of this legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth, City of Philadelphia or the School District of Philadelphia funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 9, 2013

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