



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 913

PRINTERS NO. 1054

PRIME SPONSOR: Watson

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund, Dog Law Restricted Account	\$0	(280,000)
Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account	\$0	\$280,000

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 913, Printer's Number 1054, amends Title 42 (Judicial Code) to retain fines collected for Dog Law enforcement within the Dog Law Restricted Account. This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Title 42 (Judicial Code) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by inserting new language into Section 3733, addressing deposits into the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account. The new paragraph states that "beginning July 1, 2013, any fines, fees or costs which are allocated by law or otherwise directed to the Department of Agriculture under the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, shall not be affected by this subchapter." This exemption will allow such revenues as generated by the Office of Dog Law Enforcement to be retained within the Dog Law Restricted Account (DLRA) instead of being transferred to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this bill will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds by providing for the exemption of revenues being transferred out of the DLRA to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account (Judicial Account).

Assuming annual revenue amounts of \$280,000 as collected by the department in 2011, the exemption would allow the Office of Dog Law Enforcement to keep these funds annually within the account for enforcement activities. If not, the DLRA only retains \$69,000 of this revenue, while the remaining \$211,000 is transferred to Judicial Account. Given that the Judicial Account has annual revenues of over \$53 million, the loss of the DLRA revenue would be of little consequence as it accounts for only 0.5% of revenue received in the Judicial Account.

The department has reported that retaining these funds is essential to help the long-term viability of the DLRA due to increasing expenditures related to personnel, fixed assets and enforcement operations coupled with decreasing revenues.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeffrey Clukey  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** July 1, 2013

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