



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1029

PRINTERS NO. 1220

PRIME SPONSOR: Hackett

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: Increases the fees paid for river pilot services on the Delaware River and Bay beginning in 2014. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Act 210 of 1889 to increase the pilot fees for guiding ships up and down the Delaware River and Bay. The fee paid for a pilot's services is based on the size of the ship and is established as a "per unit" charge. The number of units of a given ship is determined by multiplying its length by its width, in feet, and dividing by 100.

This legislation would maintain the current charge of \$12.86 per unit through 2013, and increases the charge to \$13.25 per unit in January 2014, \$13.64 per unit in January 2015, and \$14.05 per unit in January 2016. The legislation also maintains the current maximum number of units that can be charged at 1,400 units through 2016 and increases the ship communication charge from \$220 to \$235.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or political subdivision funds, nor would it have any adverse fiscal impact on the Navigation Commission for the Delaware River and its Navigable Tributaries or the Port of Philadelphia. The pilot fees, increased within this legislation, are paid by a shipping company to the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware. The fees are necessary in order for the Association to maintain traffic control and safety equipment, and to provide for pilots' salaries. The charges provide the Association with the funding necessary to maintain the shipping traffic safety system in the Delaware River and Bay.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 18, 2013

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