



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1565

PRINTERS NO. 4116

PRIME SPONSOR: Hahn

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2014/15 | FY 2015/16 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 |

SUMMARY: House Bill 1565, Printer's Number 4116, amends the Clean Streams Law pertaining to the use of riparian buffers.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the Clean Streams Law (P.L. 1987, No. 394) to add a new subsection allowing the use or installation of riparian buffers and riparian forest buffers to be optional and no longer mandatory among best management practices, design standards and alternatives to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and to protect, maintain, reclaim and restore water quality and for existing and designated uses.

It also states that projects in special protection watersheds that propose greater than one acre of earth disturbance within 100 feet of a surface water shall offset any reduction in the total square footage of the buffer zone that would have been utilized as a best management practice, with a replacement buffer elsewhere in the same drainage basin as close as feasible to the area of disturbance at a ratio of one-to-one. Any project incorporating such an alternative shall also include other best management practices to manage post-construction stormwater to protect, maintain, reclaim and restore water quality and existing and designated uses. Replacement planting costs shall be calculated using department guidance for best management practices.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 17, 2014

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