



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1565

PRINTERS NO. 4258

PRIME SPONSOR: Hahn

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: House Bill 1565, Printer's Number 4258, 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 addressing projects requiring a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The language allows applicants to use or install either riparian buffers and riparian forest buffers; or another option or options among available best management practices, design standards and alternatives that collectively are substantially equivalent to a riparian buffer or riparian forest buffer in effectiveness, to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and to protect, maintain, reclaim and restore water quality and for existing and designated uses to comply with 25 PA Code Chapter 93 (relating to water quality standards).

It also states that projects in special protection watershed in a drainage list (relating to designated water uses and water quality criteria) that propose any 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 along special protection waters in the same drainage basin list and 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.

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: October 15, 2014

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