



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2178

PRINTERS NO. 3720

PRIME SPONSOR: Moul

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Game Fund	\$0	\$0
Fish Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code) and Title 30 (Fish and Boat Code) to define Wildlife Conservation Officers and Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) respectively, after receiving training under Pa.C.S§ 5724, as law enforcement officers under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act, so that they may retain the ability to use body cameras.

ANALYSIS: HB 2178 amends Title 30 Section 901 (relating to powers and duties of Waterways Conservation Officers and deputies) and Title 34 Section 901 (relating to powers and duties of enforcement officers) by creating an exemption to the prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications. The bill provides that an officer, who has received training under Pa.C.S§ 5724, whose duty it is to enforce the Game and Wildlife Code or the Fish and Boat Code shall be defined as a law enforcement officer for the purpose of Title 18 (Crimes Code) Section 5704 (16) (iii) (relating to exceptions to the prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications).

This change effectively defines WCOs as enforcement officers for the purpose of the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act, and allows them to use body cameras in the performance of their duties, with the related restrictions on usage provided for under the Act.

The provisions of the legislation do not apply to Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers or Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers.

Effective Date: 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. While there will be some additional costs to the Game Commission and

the Fish and Boat Commission for the training, it is expected that any such costs would be covered under existing operations.

PREPARED BY: Thomas Gwinn
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 13, 2014