



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1129

PRINTERS NO. 2276

PRIME SPONSOR: Robbins

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 1129, Printer's Number 2276, amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to update the Paralyzed Veterans' Pension Program to reflect current terms and definitions related to eligibility of disability claims.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, specifically Section 7702 addressing the Paralyzed Veterans' Pension Program, to provide for current terms and definitions related to eligibility of disability claims. It changes the name of the "Paralyzed Veteran's Pension" program to the "Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran's Pension" program.

It also makes a technical change revising the definition of "paralyzed veteran" to "amputee and paralyzed veteran." The change is made to clarify that eligibility is based upon "the permanent and severe or complete paralysis of two or more limbs, being defined as having at least two limbs with a 40 percent disability compensation rating or higher in each limb as determined and certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs...."

This shall take effect immediately upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this bill is expected to provide a savings of approximately \$775,000 to the General Fund in FY 2014-15 based on projections reported by the DMVA. While the program will continue to see funding increases based on eligible applicants, these legislative changes will provide an estimated savings of \$1 million for FY 2015-16.

The projected savings is expected as a result of clarifying eligibility requirements related to the loss of use of a limb, specifically the 40 percent disability compensation rating. Such a savings will help offset the annual appropriation for the Paralyzed Veterans Program, which received \$2.1 million as part of the FY 2014-15 Budget and included a supplemental appropriation increase of \$843,000 from FY2013-14 to cover growing program costs.

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**DATE:** October 14, 2014

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