



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 235

PRINTERS NO. 229

PRIME SPONSOR: Heffley

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: House Bill 235 amends Title 18, the Crimes Code, and Title 75, the Vehicle Code, concerning impersonating a public servant and emergency vehicles, respectively. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Crimes Code by increasing the grading of the offense of impersonating a public servant in certain cases. The grading of the offense is increased from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a felony of the third degree if the public servant being impersonated is a law enforcement officer.

This legislation amends the Vehicle Code relating to the sale of emergency vehicles. It requires the seller of an emergency vehicle equipped with revolving or flashing lights or audible warning systems to remove or permanently disable such lights or systems upon the sale of the vehicle to a buyer who is not authorized to operate an emergency vehicle with visual or audible systems. A simple violation of this requirement is a summary offense punishable by a fine of \$500 to \$1,000. The seriousness of the violation increases to a misdemeanor of the third degree if the seller knew or should have known of the buyer's intent to use the vehicle to impersonate a public servant.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. According to data provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, approximately 19 people per year are sentenced for impersonating a public servant, and most are given probation. It is not known how many of these individuals were impersonating a law enforcement officer, nor how many used a vehicle with visual or audible warning systems purchased from a seller who knew the buyer's intentions. However, since the possible number of cases to which this law could apply is projected to be small, it is not expected to have a measurable impact on state or county prison or probation costs.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 17, 2015

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