



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

PRINTERS NO. 3367

PRIME SPONSOR: Mustio

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 264, Printer's Number 3367, the Care Facility Carbon Monoxide Alarms Standards Act establishes standards for carbon monoxide detectors in certain long-term care facilities. This legislation is effective in 90 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation requires the installation of an approved carbon monoxide alarm in long-term care facilities, personal care homes and assisted living residences where the main heating system is powered by fossil fuels. The bill requires proper installation of the alarm no less than 15 feet from the fossil-burning appliance and it must be audible to alert staff in the event of an emergency or an additional alarm must be installed. If there are resident living units or bedrooms located between the fossil-fuel burning appliance and any additional required alarm, then a single additional approved carbon monoxide alarm must be installed in a central location on the same level as the bedrooms or living units.

The facility must maintain and test carbon monoxide detectors and alarm systems according to manufacturer's guidelines and batteries must be changed at least annually. Licensing staff from the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services shall ensure compliance with this Act. This bill limits the liability of facilities for mechanical or technical malfunctions of the alarm if it was properly maintained by the facility. The Office of the State Fire Commissioner may work with care facilities to develop carbon monoxide education awareness programs for care facilities and their residents.

In the event the alarm sounds, staff must introduce fresh air to the facility and move residents to a ventilated area. Staff shall call emergency services, which will then assess the air quality and determine if further evacuation is needed. These protocols do not mandate carbon monoxide drills in the facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation should have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. Agency staff will need to ensure compliance as part of regular inspection activities. There will be a cost to facilities that use fossil-fuel burning heating systems and do not currently have carbon monoxide alarms installed.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 8, 2016

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