



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 824

PRINTERS NO. 2678

PRIME SPONSOR: Petri

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 824, printer's number 2678, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for confidentiality of personal information of public safety officials.

ANALYSIS: The bill adds a new section (proposed as Section 7715) to Title 35 addressing the confidentiality of personal information and prohibiting the public post, publicly display or provision of any public safety official's information. Such information includes home address, personal telephone number, and email address, related to public safety officials or their spouses or children and states that a third party is only seeking information because of the official's occupation and intends to harm or threaten the official or his family. It also prohibits a person, business or association from soliciting, selling or trading on the internet the home address or telephone number of such an official with the intent to cause harm.

A person who knowingly discloses information protected under the new confidentiality requirements commits a summary offense being either: a misdemeanor of the third degree, if there is no bodily injury occurs or a misdemeanor of the first degree if bodily injury occurs. The bill also includes a "Right of Action" provision permitting a public safety official to bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction whose home address or telephone number is solicited, sold or traded. Upon conviction, damages shall be awarded to the official up to a maximum of three times the actual damages, but in no case less than two thousand dollars.

The bill includes definitions related to these provisions, including Commonwealth agency; public safety official; and publicly display and publicly post.

This legislation would take effect in 90 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: The enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 18, 2015

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