



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 898

PRINTERS NO. 1121

PRIME SPONSOR: Boyle

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
City of Philadelphia Funds	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0
Turnpike Commission Funds	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Designates Philadelphia Prison System prisoner transport units and emergency response vehicles operated by the PA Turnpike as emergency vehicles, permitting them to utilize flashing lights and sirens. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Section 102 (definitions) of Title 75 (Vehicle Code) to expand the definition of "emergency vehicle" to include a vehicle that is owned and operated by a county correctional institution and used for the transport of prisoners in a city of the first class. The definition of "emergency vehicle" was also amended to include PA Turnpike Commission vehicles used by an emergency responder as dispatched by the PA Turnpike Commission's Traffic Operations Center.

The legislation clarifies that vehicles that are owned and operated by a Philadelphia correctional institution and used to respond to an emergency at a county correctional institution in Philadelphia or to escort ambulances which are transporting sick or injured prisoners in Philadelphia are designated emergency vehicles for these purposes. Drivers of these vehicles must comply with posted speed limits and may only proceed through red lights and stop signs when it is clear that they will be given the right-of-way.

The legislation proactively grandfathers any police, fire or privately owned vehicle of a fireman that is currently in compliance with regulations to remain legal if regulations are adopted that change lighting requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

The legislation would add some costs to the Philadelphia Prison System to update their revolving or flashing red lights and an audible warning system on transport vehicles used for prisoner transfer. Those costs and the timing are indeterminable. The remainder of the legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on the rest of municipalities across the Commonwealth.

According to the Turnpike Commission, they would have to repair or replace their flashing red lights for some of their emergency responder vehicles. The Commission intends to replace the lighting as due, not necessarily all at once. Those costs are indeterminable at this point.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 9, 2015

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