



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 765

PRINTERS NO. 1302

PRIME SPONSOR: Brooks

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0
Turnpike Commission Funds	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the Vehicle Code definitions of "Emergency service responder" and "Emergency vehicle"; and clarifies the provisions of the "Move Over" law. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Section 102 (Definitions) of Title 75 (Vehicle Code) to add employees or contractors of a public utility, municipally owned utility or electric cooperative to the definition of "Emergency service responder."

These employees or contractors are persons who:

- provide disaster emergency-related services, including repair, renovation, installation, construction and activities related to damaged, impaired or destroyed infrastructure; and
- perform services within the first 72 hours after a declared emergency or until the expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is later.

The legislation also amends Section 3327 (Duty of driver in emergency response areas) to make it clear that the area along the roadside in which electric cooperative personnel or electric utility personnel are providing disaster emergency-related services and are displaying proper lighting is covered by the "Move Over" law. This means that motorists are obliged to move over into the far lane if possible when they come upon a situation being dealt with on the berm of the highway. If they cannot move into the far lane, they are required to slow down to a safe speed.

This legislation also clarifies that any utility worker, either from a municipal government or private company performing emergency services and using the proper amber emergency lights, is to be covered by the "Move Over" law as well. Additionally, PA Turnpike Commission vehicles responding to an incident and dispatched by the Commission's traffic operations center will be included in the definition of "Emergency vehicles" under Section 102, and will be permitted to have red lights on their Turnpike-owned vehicle.

FISCAL IMPACT: 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. The remainder of the legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 15, 2015

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