



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 887

PRINTERS NO. 1364

PRIME SPONSOR: Costa

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"
Municipal Funds	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends Title 75 (Vehicle Code) to establish penalties for endangerment, aggravated endangerment, or death of a highway worker, emergency responder or others in work zones. This legislation would take effect in six months.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends two sections of the Vehicle Code, effectively establishing a three-tier approach to establish specific penalties for injury or death to a highway worker or emergency responder, in addition to any other existing penalties.

Section 3326 of the Vehicle Code (relating to duty of driver in construction and maintenance areas or on highway safety corridors) is amended to add a section establishing penalties for bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death. A driver, upon conviction, adjudication of delinquency or admission into an ARD program or a preadjudication program, who:

- causes bodily injury to a worker acting in their official capacity or in a highway safety corridor shall pay a fine of not more than \$1,000;
- causes serious bodily injury to a worker acting in their official capacity or in a highway safety corridor shall pay a fine of not more than \$5,000 and surrender their driver's license for a period of 6 months; or,
- causes death to a worker acting in their official capacity or in a highway safety corridor shall pay a fine of not more than \$10,000 and surrender their driver's license for a period of 1 year.

Section 3327 (relating to duty of driver in emergency response areas) is similarly amended. A driver, upon conviction, adjudication of delinquency or admission into an ARD program or a preadjudication program, who:

- causes bodily injury to an emergency service responder shall pay a fine of not more than \$1,000;

- causes serious bodily injury to an emergency service responder shall pay a fine of not more than \$5,000 and surrender their driver's license for a period of 6 months; or,
- causes death to an emergency service responder shall pay a fine of not more than \$10,000 and surrender their driver's license for a period of 1 year.

These penalties are in addition to the current fines for certain moving violations which are doubled when committed in an emergency response area manned by emergency service responders.

FISCAL IMPACT: By increasing the fines under the two aforementioned sections, this would result in additional revenue for municipalities as well as the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account. According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, there were 2,664 convictions under Title 75, Sections 3326 and 3327 (60 and 2,604 respectively) in 2014. The data does not indicate whether injury or death occurred for a highway worker or emergency responder, so a revenue projection cannot be made at this point. The remainder of this legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: November 9, 2015

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