



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1226

PRINTERS NO. 1963

PRIME SPONSOR: Vulakovich

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1226, Printer's Number 1963, amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to enhance the Veteran's Trust Fund and the Veterans' Emergency Assistance Program.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Chapters 17 and 85 of Title 51 (Military Affairs) to authorize Veterans Trust Fund money to be used under the Veterans' Temporary Assistance Program for veterans in need of shelter or other necessities. It further authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to provide department-sponsored training and informational programs for Pennsylvania veterans. No more than ten percent of the balance in the fund as of October 1 of the previous year is to be used for this purpose.

The bill also expands eligible entities that DMVA may solicit or may contribute into the Veterans' Trust Fund to include the following: a foundation; tax-exempt organizations; an estate; and a veterans' service organization. Several changes to definitions were made for the purpose of updating and keeping language and terms consistent throughout Title 51, including the title, "Veterans' Emergency Assistance Program" changed to the "Veterans' Temporary Assistance Program."

Eligibility requirements are updated requiring program applicants to demonstrate that: 1. they are a permanent resident of this Commonwealth only; 2. they are receiving insufficient funding assistance from other government sources for the current need expressed; 3. that no other funds or resources are available to address the expressed need; and 4. an immediate need for assistance that is essential to provide for the necessities of living. The amount of assistance may not exceed the established maximum or documented need, whichever is less.

The department is now required to determine uniform and equitable standards for the amount of assistance and report periodically to the State Veterans' Commission on the program. It also prohibits the receipt of temporary assistance in excess of the established maximum in any 12-month period.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. It is expected any administrative and operational costs would be covered under existing agency operations.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 20, 2016

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