



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 122

PRINTERS NO. 2744

PRIME SPONSOR: Kaufner

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 122, Printer's Number 2744, amends the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act to establish the Project Lazarus Commission. This legislation is effective immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation establishes the Project Lazarus Commission, consisting of legislators and administration officials charged with developing a best practice model to help counties build comprehensive programs to address the opioid crisis including the following:

- Community education about the dangers of misusing and abusing prescription opioids,
- Provider education to improve the treatment of chronic pain and the treatment of mental illness, addiction and pain,
- Hospital education policies to encourage safe prescribing of controlled substances and provide meaningful referrals for chronic pain,
- Diversion control to reduce the amount of unused prescription medication,
- Improvement of patient support to enable safe management of chronic pain,
- Use of naloxone to prevent overdoses,
- Addiction treatment to help find effective treatment for those ready to recover.

The Project Lazarus Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- Review and make findings and recommendations related to a best practice models for counties,
- Consult with and utilize experts to assist the Commission,
- Receive input from interested parties,
- Hold public hearings in different regions of the state,
- Review and consider the Project Lazarus model used in other states,
- Consider the impact the best practice factors may have on other taxpayer-funded services like schools, medical assistance, local governments, hospitals and law enforcement entities,
- Review and make recommendations on expanding access to effective forms of treatment, data collection and monitoring efforts, distribution of naloxone to help prevent overdose fatalities, modifying hospital emergency department policies on dispensing pain

medications, support groups for pain patients and one-on-one education of physicians on managing chronic pain,

- Develop a best practice model and factors,
- Draft proposed regulations and legislation based on the Commission's findings,
- Issue a report no later than one year from the legislation's effective date.

The General Assembly must provide administrative support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the Commission to carry out its duties in cooperation with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). DDAP, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall provide data, research and other information upon request by the Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT: According DDAP and DOH, there is no anticipated fiscal impact related to this legislation. Costs associated with the Project Lazarus Commission including reimbursement of Project Lazarus Commission members for travel and reasonable expenses should be able to be covered with existing funds.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 4, 2017

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