



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 247

PRINTERS NO. 209

PRIME SPONSOR: Sainato

REVENUE IMPACT

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
Veteran's Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund	\$2,000	\$4,000
Veterans Trust Fund	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)

SUMMARY: House Bill 247, Printer's Number 209, amends Titles 51 and 75 to change the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund to the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) and 75 (Vehicles) to change the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund money to the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund, which shall be established in the State Treasury and administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The State Veteran's Commission shall assist the department in accordance with its specific powers and duties, especially with making recommendations related to monuments and the marking of graves of veterans.

Moneys in the fund shall be used for the promotion, administration, operation, maintenance and completion of monuments and memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania veterans and military units. The bill states that, at a minimum, the following monuments will receive funding, as needed, for operating and maintaining the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery; American battle monuments located overseas that are officially owned or recognized by the Commonwealth; Pennsylvania unit monuments and markers within the Gettysburg National Military Park; and other Pennsylvania military memorials and monuments as designated or recognized by the department.

The Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund shall now receive proceeds that were directed to the Veterans Trust Fund, from the \$23 fee paid by applicants for a Pennsylvania Monuments license registration plate. The department may use up to 2% of the available funds as of October 31 of each calendar year to administer the fund and the program as established.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The department will cover any administrative and operational costs related to the administration of the fund and its program, while the bill authorizes the use of up

to 2% of the available funds in the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund. This would provide approximately \$4,000 in additional funds for the department.

The bill also provides for the transfer of revenues from the \$23 paid by the applicants for a Pennsylvania Monument registration license plate. These proceeds will shift from the Veterans Trust Fund to the Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund, which has received \$14,973 over the last two years. Revenue dropped to a total of \$3,588 for FY 2015-16. License plate revenue may vary annually and supplements other revenues received such as public and private donations. This change allows for monument and memorial revenues to be consolidated into one non-lapsing fund.

It should be noted the department has a separate General Fund appropriation that currently provides \$50,000 for "American Battle Monuments." The bill does not change the use or application of this appropriation. General Fund support will continue to supplement Pennsylvania monument projects in conjunction with the new Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 21, 2017

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