



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 374

PRINTERS NO. 2062

PRIME SPONSOR: Everett

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"
Keystone Tree Restricted Account	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Establishes the Keystone Tree Restricted Account to be used to fund a tree vitalize program and a riparian forest buffer grant program and allows a person to make a \$3 contribution to the Keystone Tree Restricted Account when electronically renewing a driver's license, ID card, or vehicle registration through PennDOT's website. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: Section 1 of this legislation creates Chapter 66 (related to Keystone Tree Restricted Account) of Title 27 (Environmental Resources) to establish the Keystone Tree Restricted Account. The restricted account shall include:

- Proceeds paid by PennDOT under section 1322 (related to contributions to Keystone Tree Restricted Account) of Title 75 (Vehicles);
- Grants, gifts, donations and other payments from a person or governmental entity to the restricted account; and
- Money appropriated to the restricted account.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) may spend the money from the restricted account for the following:

- A tree vitalize program, 40%;
- A riparian forest buffer grant program, 60%.

No amount of money allocated may be used for administrative costs for DCNR.

DCNR may solicit and accept gifts, donations, legacies and other money for deposit into the restricted account from a person or government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth. By July 31, 2020 and every year thereafter, DCNR shall submit to all four chairs of the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees a report detailing the restricted account revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year.

Section 2 of this legislation creates section 1322 (related to contributions to Keystone Tree Restricted Account) of Title 75 (Vehicle Code). Under this section, PennDOT must provide for the following within one year of the effective date:

- Ability of a person renewing a driver's license or ID card electronically through PennDOT's website to make a contribution of \$3 to the Keystone Tree Restricted Account; and
- Ability of a person renewing a vehicle registration electronically through PennDOT's website to make a contribution of \$3 to the Keystone Tree Restricted Account.

The \$3 contribution is in addition to the regular fee for renewing a driver's license, ID card, or vehicle registration. One \$3 contribution may be made for each renewal of a driver's license, ID card, or vehicle registration.

PennDOT shall determine on a monthly basis the total amount collected under this section and direct the State Treasurer to transfer the amount from the Motor License Fund to the Keystone Tree Restricted Account by the 15th of the following month. The Keystone Tree Restricted Account shall reimburse the Motor License Fund for any costs incurred in collecting the fee.

FISCAL IMPACT: PennDOT indicates that the necessary systems changes to comply with the optional contributions provided for under this legislation would cost roughly \$150,000. However, funds within the Keystone Tree Restricted Account would reimburse those costs to the Motor License Fund. Any contributions for the Keystone Tree Restricted Account would be allocated to a tree revitalization program or a riparian forest buffer grant program, however, it is indeterminable at this point to predict the amount of revenue to this new restricted account and the corresponding grant dollars.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 10, 2019

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