



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 447

PRINTERS NO. 1116 PRIME SPONSOR: B. Miller

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends the State Highway Law to require PennDOT to plant native species of vegetation along highways in Pennsylvania where feasible. This legislation would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the State Highway Law (Act 428 of 1945) to create section 410.1 (related to native vegetation along highways) which requires that PennDOT only plant vegetation along state routes identified by PennDOT, as being native to Pennsylvania along state routes that will thrive in the plant hardiness zone and under the environmental conditions of the highway right-of-way.

PennDOT may authorize the use of nonnative vegetation where the use of native vegetation is not feasible, provided that the nonnative vegetation is not:

1. A federally listed invasive plant identified by the United States Department of Agriculture National Invasive Species Information Center; or
2. A noxious weed or controlled plant, unless planted and cultivated pursuant to that chapter.

The legislation also provides that PennDOT may use hay, straw or similar materials for erosion control or other purposes at their discretion and that nothing shall require PennDOT or any other agency of the Commonwealth to identify hay, straw or similar materials as a native species.

Under this section, "plant hardiness zone" means a zone identified as existing in this Commonwealth pursuant to the most recent edition of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 26, 2019

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