



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 615

PRINTERS NO. 1784

PRIME SPONSOR: Gillespie

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
Game Fund	See fiscal impact	See fiscal impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 615, printer's number 1784, amends Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further define "enforcement officer" to include certain Pennsylvania Game Commission employees; and providing for installment payments.

The effective date is 60 days after enactment.

ANALYSIS: The bill amends Section 5102 of Title 71 (relating to Definitions) to expand the definition of enforcement officer to include full-time Pennsylvania Game Commission officers and other commissioned law enforcement personnel employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Deputy Game Commission officers are specifically excluded from the definition of enforcement officer. The inclusion of Game Commission officers as enforcement officers provides the Game Commission law officers with superannuation ten years sooner than other non-enforcement officer employees, meaning that these officers would be eligible to retire at age 50 or 55, depending on date of hire, with full retirement benefits. Normal retirement age (superannuation age) for most State Employees' Retirement System active members is age 60 or 65.

FISCAL IMPACT: A letter issued by the Independent Fiscal Office on May 7, 2019, stated the enactment of this bill is projected to increase employer annual costs for the Game Commission by \$400,000 to cover the normal cost of funding the earlier superannuation age benefits for Game Commission enforcement officers. Additionally, the Game Commission will incur costs of \$900,000 annually for a ten-year period to fund the amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability in equal dollar installments as a percentage of compensation of all affected active Game Commission employees. The bill provides that the Game Commission shall begin making payments from the first day of July following the valuation date coincident with or next following the effective date of the bill, so the first year of the ten-year amortization period is projected to be 2020-21. The increase in employer annual costs will continue until all Game Commission officers hired before January 1, 2011 retire, at which time costs will decrease because of the lower Act 120 of 2010 benefit accrual levels.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 13, 2019

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