



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1166

PRINTERS NO. 1344

PRIME SPONSOR: Jozwiak

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	\$0
Political Subdivision Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Increases the fees paid for river pilot services on the Delaware River and Bay beginning in 2020. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the act of May 11, 1889 (P.L. 188, No. 210), which establishes the board of wardens for the Port of Philadelphia and sets regulations for pilots and pilotage. This act sets fees for the rates that river pilots charge for conducting vessels up and down the Delaware River and Bay between Cape May, New Jersey, and Cape Henlopen, Delaware, and to and from the Port of Philadelphia.

Under the act, every ship or vessel must receive a pilot and pay the pilot fees as enumerated in the statute. This includes a "unit charge" that is based on the size of the ship, calculated by multiplying the length by the width of the vessel, divided by 100.

This legislation increases the per unit rate for state-licensed pilots by 1 percent annually for three years as follows:

- Jan. 1, 2020 from \$14.47 to \$14.61
- Jan. 1, 2021 to \$14.76
- Jan. 1, 2022 to \$14.91

The legislation maintains the current minimum charge of 200 units, but increases the maximum unit charge, effective January 1, 2020 from 1,500 units to 1,550 units, which is maintained through January 1, 2022. This represents a 3 percent increase and reflects the increased container vessel size transiting the river.

Finally, the legislation increases the ship communication charge by \$30, from \$235 to \$265.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or political subdivision funds. The pilot fees, increased within this legislation, are paid by a shipping company to the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware which are necessary to maintain traffic control, for safety equipment, and to provide for pilots' salaries. The charges provide the funding necessary to maintain the shipping traffic safety system in the Delaware River and Bay.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 7, 2019

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