



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1755

PRINTERS NO. 2780

PRIME SPONSOR: Zimmerman

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1755, Printer's Number 2780, requires the State Conservation Commission to submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the Conservation District Law (Act 217 of 1945) by adding provisions that the State Conservation Commission shall submit a report for the prior fiscal year to the General Assembly by March 1, 2020 and by March 1 each year thereafter.

The report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

1. An overview of the commission summarizing the commission's staffing, operations, program activities, sources of funding and a detailed accounting of how funding is used.
2. The amount of State money allocated by the commission to each conservation district.
3. The number, by each level, of certified commercial manure haulers and brokers and the amount of certification and examination fees collected by the Department of Agriculture.
4. A summary of activities under the leadership development program established to train conservation district directors and staff in Pennsylvania, including funding received and allocated.
5. A summary of the nutrient and odor management program, including program statistics.
6. A summary of the nutrient management and odor management certification programs, including numbers of persons certified by type and the amount of certification and examination fees collected by the Department of Agriculture.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. The commission provides support to the State's county conservation districts and manages several state programs, such as the Nutrient Management and Odor Management Program and Dirt and Gravel Road program. While the commission may have some administrative and operational costs related to the preparation of this annual report, much of this information already is produced and available via commission documents or its publicly accessible web page.

The bill also requires an overview of the commission's staffing, operations, program activities, sources of funding and a detailed accounting of how funding is used. The purpose of this is to ensure better transparency and understanding of the various funds managed by the commission, which is supported with staff and resources from both the Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, but is not fully documented in agency presentations.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 3, 2020

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