



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1786

PRINTERS NO. 2764

PRIME SPONSOR: Sainato

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: House Bill 1786 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by establishing a first responder loan forgiveness program. Effective dates vary by provision.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1786 would establish in statute the First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program, which would be administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. The Program would be available to active volunteers in first response organizations, which include emergency medical services agencies, fire companies and rescue companies. An active first responder volunteer who meets the qualifications as described in the legislation would be eligible for loan forgiveness if they have a federally insured student loan for an educational program at an approved institution of higher learning in the Commonwealth. PHEAA may forgive a qualified applicant's loans in an amount up to \$16,000, but the total amount shall not exceed \$135 per credit hour earned in the approved program of education.

PHEAA may approve loan forgiveness awards only to the extent that funds are appropriated by the General Assembly, and sufficient to cover the administrative costs of the program. If funding is insufficient to fully fund administration and awards to all qualified applicants, the agency shall prorate loan forgiveness awards.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. Loan forgiveness awards under this legislation will only be made to the extent that funds are subsequently appropriated by the General Assembly.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 23, 2019

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