



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1869

PRINTERS NO. 3582

PRIME SPONSOR: Owlett

### COST / (SAVINGS)

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

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1869, Printer's Number 3582 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to provide for Basic Life Support staffing waivers and creating new Chapters for COVID-19 Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits and COVID-19 Benefits for Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard (PNG).

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation provides authorization for the Department of Health (DOH) to grant Basic Life Support (BLS) staffing waivers. DOH is required to allow Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies to file for a waiver or exception from the staffing requirements in Section 8133 (Basic life support ambulances) for extraordinary reasons as determined by DOH. The BSL staffing requirements may then be waived or adjusted by DOH on a case-by-case basis and in the best interest of the EMS system and patient care. This section is effective in 60 days and expires in three years.

HB 1869 adds Chapter 57 providing COVID-19 enforcement officer disability benefits. Specifically, a person covered under section 1(a) of the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, who contracts or is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is subject to quarantine resulting from exposure to COVID-19, and by reason thereof is temporarily incapacitated from performing his duties, shall be compensated in accordance with section 1(a) of the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law. A benefit received under this subsection shall be limited to 60 days for each incident. Chapter 57 is effective immediately.

In addition, HB 1869 adds Chapter 58 providing COVID-19 benefits for members of the PNG if they are not compensated by the federal government. Specifically, a member of the PNG, who is ordered to state active duty by the Adjutant General or the Governor and contracts or is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is subject to quarantine resulting from exposure to COVID-19, and by reason thereof is temporarily incapacitated from performing his duties, shall be compensated. The member must submit a claim as prescribed by the Adjutant General and the average weekly wage shall be based on the federal daily base pay for military personnel multiplied by a factor of five. A benefit received under this subsection shall be limited to 60 days for each incident. While

in the performance of duties, no member of the PNG shall be deemed to be an employee of the Commonwealth for any benefit or purpose at any time. Chapter 58 is effective immediately.

The General Assembly shall appropriate the necessary funds to be deposited into a nonlapsing restricted account to provide for benefits established in Chapter 58.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to the Department of Health, there is no fiscal impact related to the changes in Section 8133.

The provisions of this legislation in Chapter 57 that provide law enforcement officers, who are temporarily incapacitated due to COVID-19, with compensation and benefits may have an impact on state and municipal employers but that impact cannot be quantified at this time.

The provisions of this legislation in Chapter 58 that provide PNG members, who are temporarily incapacitated due to COVID-19, with compensation may require state funds but that impact cannot be quantified at this time.

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**DATE:** April 21, 2020

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