



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 146

PRINTERS NO. 1160

PRIME SPONSOR: Brooks

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
|---|------------|------------|
| General Fund; Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account | \$0 | \$0 |

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 146, Printer's Number 1160, provides for online training for firefighters through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to direct the Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner to establish guidelines for the development, delivery and maintenance of an online system of training for firefighters. The guidelines shall state that the training is voluntary and offered free of charge.

The training program shall be incorporated into the Train PA system or other system approved by the commissioner and the courses or programs offered are ones that do not require hands-on or field training and provide basic level training for firefighters. The Commissioner has the authority to prioritize specific training topics and shall provide a certificate of completion to a firefighter who successfully completes an online firefighter training program. A complete listing of the available online firefighter training courses shall be posted on the commissioner's publicly accessible internet website.

The program is funded by a portion of the fireworks tax enacted in 2017 and already designated for these purposes in the Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account. The Commissioner shall provide a written report each December 31 detailing the use of the money in the account to the chairs of the House and Senate committees on Agriculture and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds as related duties outlined in the bill would be covered under existing operations of the Office of State Fire Commissioner. Additional funding of up to \$500,000 is currently provided through the Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account as a result of Act 43 of 2017, which amended the Tax Reform Code of 1971 and added a tax on fireworks sales.

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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.