



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 327

PRINTERS NO. 1627

PRIME SPONSOR: Argall

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund	See fiscal impact	See fiscal impact

SUMMARY: This legislation amends the Administrative Code by adding new articles regarding emergency COVID-19 provisions and amends Article XXIV requiring the Department of General Services (DGS) to conduct an annual survey of state facility usage.

ANALYSIS: The legislation adds new articles regarding emergency COVID-19 provisions and amends Article XXIV as follows:

COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force

This article creates the COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- The Governor or a designee;
- Two members of the Senate as appointed by the President Pro Tempore;
- Three members of the Senate as appointed by the Majority Leader;
- Three members of the Senate as appointed by the Minority Leader;
- Two members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the Speaker;
- Three members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the Majority Leader;
- Three members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the Minority Leader;
- An officer or employee of the Department of Health as appointed by the Governor;
- An officer or employee of the Emergency Management Agency as appointed by the Governor;
- An officer or employee of the Department of Community and Economic Development as appointed by the Governor;
- The Court Administrator of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- A judge of the Superior or Commonwealth Court or a justice of the Supreme Court as appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and
- A judge of the court of common pleas or a member of the minor judiciary as appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Task Force shall 1) monitor and track the response by the Commonwealth to the COVID-19 public health emergency 2) identify immediate and urgent issues relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency that require executive, legislative or judicial action 3) develop a recovery plan that includes a documented, structured approach that describes how the Commonwealth and its subdivisions can expeditiously resume mission-critical functions and 4) make a final report no later than six months after the declaration of disaster emergency related to COVID-19 is terminated.

The amount of \$1,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Community and Economic Development for payment of reasonable expenses of the Task Force.

This article shall expire six months after the declaration of disaster emergency related to COVID-19 is terminated.

COVID-19 Emergency Statutory and Regulatory Suspensions and Waivers Reporting Requirements

This article places notification requirements on the Office of the Governor when a specific statute or regulation is suspended, modified or waived under the authority of the declaration of disaster emergency related to COVID-19. Notifications required under this article shall be made within the timelines specified to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House.

COVID-19 Debt Cost Reduction Review

This article requires the Treasury Department, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Budget, the Auditor General and any chairperson of an authority, commission, agency, board or other state-authorized entity that has the power to issue debt, to identify and review all outstanding debt obligations of the Commonwealth and identify options for the refinancing of outstanding debt obligations to reduce costs. The Treasury Department and the aforementioned entities shall submit a report of its findings in this regard to the General Assembly by June 30, 2020.

In addition, the legislation also amends Article XXIV to require executive agencies, independent agencies, and state-affiliated entities to report to DGS on an annual basis their space usage for each habitable structure which is under its control or which it uses. It requires the report to, at a minimum, include the following information:

- Whether the state facility is state-owned or leased;
- Whether the state facility is occupied or vacant;
- The size of the state facility as measured in square feet;
- The total expenditures for utilities per state facility for the preceding twelve months;
- The amount of rent paid for the preceding twelve months for any state facility that is leased;
- The purpose of the state facility; and
- How to reduce costs associated with the facility.

The legislation requires the survey information to be reported to DGS no later than June 30th of each year. It also requires DGS to compile and report the survey information it receives to the majority and minority chairpersons of the State Government Committee of the Senate and the State Government Committee of the House of Representatives on or before July 31st of each year.

The new articles would be effective immediately and the amendment to Article XXIV would be effective in 180 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: Article XXI-E includes a \$1,000 appropriation to the Department of Community and Economic Development for the expenses of the COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force created in this new article. Any amount of this appropriation unexpended or uncommitted upon the expiration of the Task Force shall lapse back to the General Fund. The addition of the other new articles will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Regarding the amendment of Article XXIV, according to DGS the personnel costs associated with compiling the survey information into an annual report are estimated to not exceed \$25,000 annually.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 7, 2020

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