



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 326

PRINTERS NO. 388

PRIME SPONSOR: O'Neal

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 326, Printer's Number 388, provides for the Pennsylvania National Guard to establish operations plans to provide logistics and administrative support for vaccine distribution at regional sites across the Commonwealth and for the Governor to provide a report on the mission capabilities.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to insert Section 508 addressing the use of Active duty Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) for emergency response activities and coordinating with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Department of Health to develop plans for the establishment and operation in each region of a site for the community distribution and administration of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies and vaccines for a virus. Administration of the vaccine shall include the inoculation of individuals by members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who possess the required training.

It also requires the Governor to establish and submit to the General Assembly a report on the integration of the PANG into the Commonwealth's plan for the distribution and administration of any vaccine for COVID-19, including the administration of the vaccine to individuals by members of the PANG.

The report shall be prepared in consultation with the Secretary of Health, Director of PEMA and the Adjutant General of the PANG and address the PANG capabilities and operations to respond to this mission. The report shall include the following:

- (1) Availability and capacity of medical units of the PANG to administer COVID-19 vaccine;
- (2) Availability and capacity of other PANG units for supportive missions, including logistics and preparation for community vaccination clinics;
- (3) Critical missions of the PANG, including the deployment of members to skilled nursing facilities to combat outbreaks of COVID-19.
- (4) Current and anticipated allocations of any COVID-19 vaccine available to Pennsylvania; and
- (5) Federal guidance on the use of the National Guard for the purposes under this subsection.

The bill also provides definitions for the following terms:

- "Region." Each region of the Commonwealth, as identified by the Department of Health.
- "Virus." A virus or infectious disease, identified by the United States Department of Health

and Human Services or the Department of Health. The term includes COVID-19.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment. The report from the Governor to the General Assembly shall be provided within 45 days of the effective date of this section.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The PANG would incur administrative and operational costs related to State Active Duty emergency response activities, but all costs are projected to be covered under Disaster or Public Health Emergency funding as managed through PEMA.

Also, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to fully reimburse states for the cost of National Guard personnel and emergency costs. FEMA will also reportedly be reimbursing states retroactively for eligible services dating back to the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 5, 2021

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