



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

PRINTERS NO. 2386

PRIME SPONSOR: Gregory

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1220, Printer's Number 2386, increases the monthly amounts for recipients who receive support from the blind veteran's pension and the amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension programs and provides for the pension to be increased biennially according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Sections 7701(b) and 7702(a) of Title 51 (Military Affairs) to increase the monthly pension amount from \$150 to \$250 that eligible veterans would receive under the Blind Veterans' Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans' Pension programs as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The section states that the Adjutant General shall have the power, and it shall be his duty to determine the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and his decision is final.

The amount of the pension shall be increased biennially, on January 1, by the percentage change increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area for the most recent 12-month period for which figures are officially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The department shall transmit notice of any biennial increase to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation would increase the monthly pension payments by \$100 for each eligible veteran from \$150 to \$250 and require increasing the General Fund appropriations administered by the DMVA to support these programs based on the number of claims processed.

For example, the Blind Veterans' Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans' Pension programs received \$222,000 and \$3.878 million respectively in FY2021-22. It is projected this bill will require an additional \$2.746 million to cover all pension payments above the current program and provide a total of \$370,000 for Blind Veterans' Pensions and \$6.476 million for Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans' Pensions, but these amounts are dependent upon the number of claims

processed by each program annually. The bill also includes a biennial CPI inflator for the pension amount that would require an additional cost in future years.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** November 10, 2021

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