



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1861

PRINTERS NO. 2200

PRIME SPONSOR: Lewis

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1861, printer's number 2200, amends the Administrative Code further providing for definitions and for temporary regulatory flexibility authority.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1861 amends the Administrative Code, updating definitions related to the COVID-19 regulatory flexibility authority.

The legislation extends certain regulatory suspensions that were initially issued during the COVID-19 declaration of disaster emergency until March 31, 2022. The following regulatory suspension extensions are included in the bill:

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Flexibility is provided for narcotic treatment programs, including requirements for a take-home supply of medication, face-to-face requirements for treatment admission determination, and requirements for on-site narcotic treatment physician services.

Office of Administration

The office may make extended emergency appointments under the civil service system and is provided flexibility regarding the transfer or reassignment of civil service employees.

Department of Banking and Securities

Remote work is permitted for department-regulated licensed businesses.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

National Guard members are permitted to operate Commonwealth-owned or leased vehicles, and the eligibility for group life insurance to Pennsylvania National Guard members mobilized on federal duty who respond to an emergency declaration for 30 days or more is extended.

Department of Labor and Industry

Flexibility is offered for Unemployment Compensation hearings, in relation to the hearing location, telephone hearings, and the mailing of notices or decisions. Minors may seek a work permit in an alternative method to appearing before an issuing office. In addition, the requirements for two witness signatures and a notarized signature on a Compromise and Release Agreement per the Worker's Compensation Act is waived.

Department of Revenue

The department may accept the Insurance Premiums and Mutual Thrift Institutions taxpayers returns as properly filed without a wet signature.

Department of Health

Flexibility is provided to ensure the safe delivery and efficient administration of health care due to increased demand, including provisions relating to facility and licensure certifications, and the expansion of services offered by health care providers.

Department of Human Services

Flexibility is provided to continue offering necessary services to support vulnerable Pennsylvania individuals and families, including various health care programs overseen by the state.

Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Flexibility is provided to various licensing boards with their operational and licensing functions. Modifications to the scope of practice statutes and licensing procedures are maintained in order to increase health care access, including provisions allowing for the efficient distribution of vaccines, the use of telemedicine to satisfy clinical hour requirements, and the filling of critical health care positions.

If an extension of a COVID-19 regulatory flexibility provision is terminated prior to March 31, 2022, notification must be sent to the following:

- President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
- The chair and minority chair of each committee of the Senate and House of Representatives which have oversight authority of the Commonwealth agency which administers the statute, order, rule, or regulation.

House Bill 1861 also amends the Administrative Code to require final reports to be issued by each authority which initially authorized an extended regulatory statute suspension, no later than November 1, 2021. The report shall include a list of each suspension which was extended, including a reference to the statute, order, rule, or regulation which was suspended. For each suspension, the termination date shall also be included in the report.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this bill will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Casey Martin
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 29, 2021

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