



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 363 PRINTER'S NO. 1032 PRIME SPONSOR: Markosek

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 363, Printer's Number 1032 would exclude veterans' disability compensation from income when determining eligibility for any Commonwealth program.

ANALYSIS:

The legislation amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to exclude 100 percent of veterans' benefit payment (disability compensation) from being included as income under any Commonwealth program for purposes of determining program eligibility. This exclusion would apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a veteran for any compensation or payment the unmarried surviving spouse is entitled to receive.

"Commonwealth program" is defined as a program administered by the Commonwealth that requires, as a condition for eligibility, the inclusion of an individual's income.

The legislation would take effect 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is currently unknown. Based on 2021 Census data, there are over 123,000 veterans in Pennsylvania who report a service-connected disability, making this the estimated universe of individuals to which this legislation could apply. However, the number of veterans or unmarried surviving spouses that currently do not qualify for state programs due to their disability compensation being included as income, or the number of veterans or unmarried surviving spouses who would experience an increase in benefits as a result of their disability compensation being excluded, is unknown. Exact costs of the legislation would depend on the programs that these individuals apply and are eligible for based their income excluding their disability compensation.

The application of this legislation may conflict with federal law as it relates to regulations for means-tested applications for federally funded programs that are administered by the Commonwealth. Therefore, this legislation may not include numerous programs that are administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services but are federally funded and follow federal regulations for income eligibility, such as Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and SSI categories for Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

Some programs, including the Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE/PACENET programs, already exclude veterans' disability payments from income for purposes of determining program eligibility. Therefore, this legislation would have no fiscal impact on these programs.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: 5/2/2023

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