



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1207

PRINTER'S NO. 1277

PRIME SPONSOR: Freeman

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1207 amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) Section 2103 (Definitions) by changing the definition of a “land bank jurisdiction” by removing language that relates to the population of a municipality and adding “optional plan” and “optional charter” municipalities to the definition.

This act will take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Act 153 of 2012 established Pennsylvania’s Blight and Land Bank programs within the Department of Economic Development. Land banks are a tool that municipalities may use to facilitate the return of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use. There are currently 25 land banks in Pennsylvania.

This bill changes the definition of a “land bank jurisdiction” from “a county, city, borough, township and an incorporated town with a population of more than 10,000” to define it as “a municipality.” It also removes the population requirement for two or more municipalities in an intergovernmental cooperation agreement to establish a land bank.

In the definition of a “municipality,” House Bill 1207 adds “optional plan municipality” and “optional charter municipality” to qualify.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Community and Economic Development receives annual audits from land banks containing income and expenditures, as well as a report of the land bank’s activities for the preceding year. This information is used by legislative and executive agencies for legislative, policy and funding considerations, as well as many outside organizations for research and comparative analysis. The department does not anticipate any adverse fiscal impact to state funds from the expansion of eligibility for land banks.

PREPARED BY: Chris Fetterman

House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: June 14, 2023

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