



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1768

PRINTER'S NO. 2287

PRIME SPONSOR: Benham

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
State Stores Fund	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 1768, Printer's Number 2287, amends the Liquor Code to modify the requirements of reporting information on underage and high-risk college drinking and establishes a public safety grant program for saturated municipalities.

### ANALYSIS:

The legislation amends Act 21 of 1951 (Liquor Code) to require the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's (PLCB) Bureau of Alcohol Education to provide information, statistics, and data on underage and high-risk college drinking in the commonwealth a part of the PLCB's annual financial report. The report is required to include the following information:

- Current levels and trends of underage and high-risk college drinking in the commonwealth;
- Current programs conducted by State agencies to prevent underage and high-risk college drinking;
- Current science that better defines and suggests proven prevention strategies for underage and high-risk college drinking; and
- Grants that the Bureau of Alcohol Education has awarded to address alcohol education and public safety.

The legislation would also direct the State Treasurer to annually transfer \$2.5 million from the State Stores Fund into a restricted account. The funds in the account are appropriated to the PLCB on a continuing basis to establish a program in the Bureau of Alcohol Education to provide grants of up to \$100,000 to saturated municipalities to address health, welfare, and safety issues associated with the sale and distribution of alcohol. To qualify for a grant, a saturated municipality must demonstrate need and have a municipal police department or regional police force or contract with a municipal police department. Grant funding awarded under this program can be used to pay for:

- Staffing costs for a municipal police department or regional police force in areas surrounding licensed establishments;
- Security cameras;
- Extra street lighting;
- Technology enhancements for public safety;
- Community violence prevention; and
- Municipal public safety.

A “saturated municipality” is defined as a municipality in which the total number of existing liquor licenses subject to the quota system are equal to or exceed one license per 1,000 inhabitants or exceeds ten total.

The PLCB is required to post annually on its website a list of saturated municipalities. The board is permitted to use two percent of the amount awarded in grants under the program for expenses associated with administering the program. A saturated municipality that receives a grant under the program would need to provide a report to the PLCB of the impact of the grant within 18 months of receiving it.

The legislation would take effect 60 days upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Enactment of this legislation would result in an annual transfer of \$2.5 million from the State Stores Fund to provide public safety grants to saturated municipalities pursuant to the parameters of the bill.

The provision relating to the modification of reporting requirements for underage age and high-risk college drinking may have a nominal, if any, impact on the commonwealth. The PLCB is currently required to produce a report with this information biennially. Any expenses incurred by the shift from biannual to annual reporting can likely be accommodated within the board’s current budget and staffing levels.

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**DATE:** November 14, 2023

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