



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 140

PRINTER'S NO. 684

PRIME SPONSOR: Langerholc

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

Establishes the Mass Transit Prosecutor Program in Philadelphia.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 140 Printer's Number 684 amends Title 74 (Transportation) by adding Section 1786, which provides for a special prosecutor for mass transit in Philadelphia County. The legislation requires the Office of Attorney General to appoint a special prosecutor, within thirty days of the effective date of the legislation, to investigate and institute criminal proceedings for violations of laws occurring within SEPTA, the primary provider of public passenger transportation in Philadelphia County.

The legislation sets the eligibility requirements for the special prosecutor as well as the investigative and prosecutorial functions and available resources. In addition to using the facilities, resources, and personnel of the Attorney General, the special prosecutor may request assistance from the Pennsylvania State Police or any law enforcement agency with appropriate jurisdiction in carrying out their functions.

The special prosecutor is required to compile reports related to criminal activity and administrative proceedings within SEPTA. Subsection nine details whom the report is submitted to and what each report is required to contain.

No new action or proceeding may be initiated by the special prosecutor after December 31, 2026.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds. The Office of Attorney General currently reimburses counties with full-time district attorneys an amount equal to sixty-five percent of the district attorney's salary. The legislation provides that an amount equal to this reimbursement will be used to reimburse the Office of Attorney General for the compensation of the special prosecutor and any expenses incurred for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the special prosecutor. The legislation further provides that any additional expenses, including the remaining salary of the special prosecutor, will be covered by Philadelphia County.

According to the Office of Attorney General, the estimated cost of the legislation will be \$1.6 million per year. This includes staffing, equipment, and other administrative costs. This upfront cost to the Office of Attorney General will be repaid by Philadelphia per the legislation.

PREPARED BY: Bradley Keen
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: December 12, 2023

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