



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 721

PRINTER'S NO. 1147

PRIME SPONSOR: Schwank

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 721 Printer's Number 1147 establishes a Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board to advise the Department of Health on the Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as the WIC program.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation establishes the Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board to advise the Department of Health on ways to increase enrollment and participation in the WIC program. The WIC Advisory Board will advise the Department on the following WIC related topics:

- Operations of the WIC program inclusive of ways to support connections between the WIC program and other social, health, educational, and other needed services for pregnant women, mothers, and children.
- Outreach initiatives that focus on increasing enrollment and participation in the program, which should include any underserved populations.
- Ways to improve or enhance the program through technology which includes security measures to protect and prevent fraudulent activity and prevent the misuse of WIC participants' personal information.
- Increase awareness and support of the WIC Breastfeeding Services.
- Increase access to WIC-authorized stores for program participants, and
- Other WIC related topics.

The Board's duties are:

- Review current WIC eligibility and participation data.
- Become familiar with the WIC Policy Manual and the WIC State Plan.
- Advise on the best practices used by other states.
- Consult with organizations and other agencies that work with WIC participants.
- Advise the Department on the WIC program related topics.

The Board's membership will consist of:

- Secretary of Health or designee,
- Director of WIC or designee,
- 2 WIC subject matter experts,
- 2 medical professionals inclusive of one Pediatric Physician,

- 2 advocates focused on addressing food insecurity,
- 2 child or maternal advocates,
- 3 WIC participants,
- 2 representatives for WIC-authorized stores,
- 3 representatives for WIC local agencies,
- 1 breastfeeding expert.

In addition to the listed membership, the Board may be staffed with individuals working for the Department of Health.

This act will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation has no fiscal impact. The Department of Health established a WIC Advisory Group in August 2022, which includes members similar to those listed as part of the WIC State Advisory Board. As the Advisory Group has been in place prior to the establishment of this Board, any staff assigned to support the Advisory Group will likely assume responsibilities for the Advisory Board. As current staff duties are transitioned to the Board in place of the Group, no increased staffing costs are expected.

Additionally, Board members are prohibited from being compensated for their membership on the Board. Board members can seek reimbursement for travel, lodging and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their membership duties. As these expenses are expected to be nominal, the Department of Health can absorb any increase due to the travel, lodging, and other necessary expenses in their current appropriations.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: May 21, 2024

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