

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1186

PRINTER'S NO. 4077

AMOUNT

\$1,400,000

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

April 3, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative DiGirolamo

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, April 3, 2009

Reported as committed, Jan. 25, 2010

First consideration, Jan. 25, 2010

Laid on the table, Jan. 25, 2010

Removed from table, Jan. 25, 2010

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, Jan. 25, 2010

Re-reported as amended, Jan. 25, 2010

Second consideration, Feb. 8, 2010

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 8, 2010

Re-reported as committed, May 24, 2010

Third consideration and final passage, May 25, 2010 (191-3)

In the Senate

Referred to PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, June 8, 2010

Reported as committed, June 30, 2010

First consideration, June 30, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 30, 2010

Re-reported as amended, July 1, 2010

Second consideration, July 1, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1186 amends the Administrative Code to establish a new Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, makes changes to the structure of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and makes technical changes to update the names of the Departments of Community and Economic Development, Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

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Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

The bill establishes the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the bureaus of Prevention and Intervention; Treatment and Administration within the Department. All personnel, appropriations, equipment, and other items which are currently used in connection with the Department of Health concerning drug and alcohol abuse programs are to be transferred to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. It enumerates the department's powers and duties including the development of a state plan for the control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education and training aspects of drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems. The following items are to be addressed in the plan: coordination efforts of all state agencies; coordination of all health and rehabilitation efforts; encouragement of the formation of local coordination agencies; development of model drug and alcohol abuse plans for local government; assistance and consultation with local government, public and private agencies, institutions, organization and individuals; cooperation with organized medicine; investigation of methods for more precise detection of alcohol or controlled substances in blood and urine; establishment of training programs for professional and nonprofessional personnel with respect to drug and alcohol abuse and dependency; public education programs; giving priority to developing community-based drug and alcohol treatment service; establishment of a system of emergency medical services for persons voluntarily seeking treatment; providing for standards for approval for all treatment facilities; grants and contracts for prevention, intervention and treatment; prepare regulations for programs; establish priorities for allocating funds; and, establish advisory committees.

The bill requires the Department to hold a public hearing 30 days prior to adoption of the state plan being adopted and prior to any amendment of the plan. It also requires the Department to establish an information center to gather and publish information pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse and related issues; provide an annual report to the General Assembly; and, make provisions for facilities around the state to provide information about drug and alcohol abuse to the public.

PHEAA Changes

The bill provides for four nonlegislative members to be appointed to the PHEAA Board of Directors to replace legislative members when the legislative members choose not to be reappointed. The nonlegislative members are to have relevant experience in finance, banking, investment, information technology, higher education or higher education finance. It changes the term of service for PHEAA Board members from six to four years and provides that the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman are to be legislatively appointed members. Additionally, inconsistent provisions in the Higher Education Assistance Agency Act are repealed.

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The provisions related to the establishment of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs take effect July, 1 2011. The provisions related to PHEAA take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

While all personnel, appropriations, equipment, and other items currently used in connection with the Department of Health concerning drug and alcohol abuse programs will be transferred to the new Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, it will need additional funding to perform the administrative functions of a state agency which cannot be transferred from the Department of Health. This would include personnel to staff administrative offices such as: the new Secretary's office; a fiscal office; an information technology office; and, a human resources office. It is also likely the new department will need independent technology infrastructure. The Governor's Budget Office has estimated that the administrative costs associated with creating the new department and the required technology infrastructure will cost the Commonwealth approximately \$1,400,000.

The provisions providing for the changes to the PHEAA Board structure will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.