

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO.

House Bill 1533

PRINTER'S NO.

1900

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 26, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative George

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
May 26, 2009

Reported as committed, June 3, 2009

First consideration, June 3, 2009

Re-committed to RULES, June 3, 2009

Re-reported as committed, June 8, 2009

Second consideration, June 8, 2009

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, June 8, 2009

Re-reported as committed, June 9, 2009

Third consideration and final passage, June 9, 2009 (194-0)

(Remarks see House Journal Page), June 9, 2009

IN THE SENATE

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
June 11, 2009

Reported as committed, June 23, 2009

First consideration, June 23, 2009

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, July 9, 2009

Re-reported as committed, Jan. 26, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1533 amends section 7319 (h) and (j) of Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by extending the sunset date of the "Military Family Relief Assistance" program to June 30, 2016. Additionally, this legislation makes extensive changes to the definition of "eligible service members."

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The Military Family Relief Assistance program was established by Act 65 of 2005 to provide financial assistance to members of the Armed Forces, and their families during emergency situations. The Act set a sunset date of November 10, 2010.

In addition to extending the sunset date, the bill makes the following changes:

- 1) The definition of "eligible service member" would include a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard;
- 2) Permits families to receive assistance for a period of up to one year after the service member is released from active duty;
- 3) Permits families to receive assistance for a period of up to two years after discharge if:
 - i) The member was discharged for medical reasons arising out of his or her military service;
 - ii) The medical disability was incurred in the line of duty and not the result of misconduct;
 - iii) The medical condition that resulted in the eventual discharge was not a pre-military service condition;
 - iv) The medical disability was incurred while serving on active duty, other than for training, or State active duty for a period of thirty or more consecutive days;
 - v) The former member received an honorable discharge for medical reasons; and
 - vi) The need for assistance is directly related to his or her military service or the disability incurred as a result of such service.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Military Family Relief Assistance Fund is a restricted account within the General Fund that was established to receive funds through the voluntary contributions through an income tax form check-off box and private contributions from businesses. House Bill 1533 does not make changes to the funding source or the established disbursement guidelines. Therefore, the enactment of this legislation would have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.