

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2280

PRINTER'S NO. 3260

AMOUNT
FY 2010-11 \$1,061,000

FUND
General

DATE INTRODUCED
March 5, 2010

PRIME SPONSOR
Representative D. Evans

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 5, 2010
Reported as committed, March 8, 2010
First consideration, March 8, 2010
Laid on the table, March 8, 2010
Removed from table, March 8, 2010
Second consideration, March 10, 2010
Third consideration and final passage, March 15, 2010 (171-18)
In the Senate
Referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 17, 2010
Reported as committed, June 14, 2010
First consideration, June 14, 2010
Second consideration, June 15, 2010
Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, June 15, 2010
Re-reported as committed, June 30, 2010
Third consideration and final passage, June 30, 2010 (50-0)

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2280 appropriates \$1,061,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA") in the Department of Community and Economic Development ("DCED").

The OSBA is administratively included within the Department of Community and Economic Development. However, the Small Business Advocate Act specifically provides that the Secretary of DCED is not in any way responsible for the policies, procedures, or other substantive matters developed by the OSBA to carry out its duties under the act.

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The OSBA is charged with representing the interests of small business consumers of utility services in proceedings before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") and the comparable federal regulatory agencies and in court. The OSBA is funded for its utility regulatory functions by assessments levied by the PUC on the public utilities subject to its jurisdiction. No General Fund revenues are used to support the OSBA's operations.

In 1993, the OSBA was assigned additional responsibilities involving the administration of Pennsylvania's workers' compensation system. The costs incurred by the OSBA in discharging those duties are paid from assessments made by the Insurance Department against the insurance companies that write workers' compensation insurance policies in Pennsylvania.

House Bill 2280 reflects the Governor's recommended FY 2010-11 budget of \$1,061,000 for the OSBA. This is a \$21,000 increase (2.0%) over the FY 2009-10 appropriation of \$1,040,000.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, or immediately, whichever is later.