

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 819

PRINTER'S NO. 1115

AMOUNT

Indeterminate Cost Savings

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 28, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robbins

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 28, 2011

Reported as committed, March 13, 2012

First consideration, March 13, 2012

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, May 1, 2012

Re-reported as committed, Sept. 24, 2012

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 819 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for employees of state veterans' homes.

Specifically, this legislation removes employees that provide medical, nursing, therapeutic, recreational or other care or services for residents at the state's six veterans' homes from the Civil Service Act (P.L.752, No.286), regardless of the nature of their positions.

This legislation contains language that maintains "veterans' preference" status in appointments to the positions cited above.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Existing law requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to hire Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and other direct-care employees under the rules and regulations of the state Civil Service Commission, thereby making the process of filling vacancies within the state veterans' homes cumbersome and slow. According to the Department, they incur approximately \$5 million in annual overtime costs, due partly to the time it takes to fill nursing vacancies.

It is assumed that the Department will experience cost savings with the passage of this legislation, but it is not possible to determine the actual amount of savings until the Department implements the new hiring process.