

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 995

PRINTER'S NO. 1391

AMOUNT
Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND
General

DATE INTRODUCED
April 25, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR
Senator Baker

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 25, 2011

Reported as amended, May 24, 2011

First consideration, May 24, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 13, 2011

Re-reported as amended, June 20, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 995 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to require operators of unconventional oil and gas wells within Pennsylvania to register unique addresses for their wells, develop and submit emergency response plans, and post signs.

Specifically, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (the agency) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall adopt emergency regulations directing the operators to:

- 1) Adopt a GPS coordinate address for each unconventional oil or gas well at both the access road entrance and the well pad site;
- 2) Register that address with the agency, DEP, and the county emergency management organization within which the oil or gas well is located;
- 3) Require the development and submission of an emergency response plan to the agency, DEP and the county emergency management organization within which the oil or gas well is located;
- 4) Require the county to forward the GPS address and the emergency response plan to the local emergency management organization in which the oil or gas well is located;
- 5) Post a reflective sign at the entrance to each well site with the address of the site, the coordinates of the site, the emergency contact number of the operator, and such other information as the agency and DEP deem necessary.

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The regulations shall apply to new and existing unconventional gas and oil wells.

The act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection have both stated that the development and adoption of the emergency regulations implementing these requirements for the operators of the unconventional oil and gas wells can be accomplished with minimal fiscal impact to their agencies.