

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 1479

**PRINTER'S NO.** 2073

**AMOUNT**

\$5,173,000

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 30, 2012

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Corman

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 30, 2012

Reported as committed, April 2, 2012

First consideration, April 2, 2012

Second consideration, April 3, 2012

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, April 3, 2012

Re-reported as committed, May 8, 2012

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1479 appropriates \$5,173,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") in the Office of Attorney General.

The OCA represents Pennsylvania utility consumers in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") and other state and federal agencies and in courts. The OCA also represents the interests of Pennsylvania consumers in non-governmental organizations, such as the PJM Interconnection.

The OCA is funded through a direct assessment on the companies that are under the jurisdiction of the PUC. No General Fund revenues are used to support the OCA's operations.

Senate Bill 1479 funds the OCA at the level recommended in the Governor's FY 2012-13 budget. This is a \$16,000 decrease (0.3%) from the FY 2011-12 appropriation of \$5,189,000.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, or immediately, whichever is later.