

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 1531

**PRINTER'S NO.** 2388

## **AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

## **FUND**

General Fund  
Motor License Fund  
Veterans' Trust Fund

## **DATE INTRODUCED**

May 29, 2012

## **PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Baker

## **HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, May 29, 2012

Reported as committed, June 5, 2012

First consideration, June 5, 2012

Referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 13, 2012

Re-reported as amended, Sept. 24, 2012

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1531, as amended, provides for funds deposited into the Veterans' Trust Fund and the authorized expenditures from such Fund.

Section 1719-G of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code established a Veterans' Trust Fund in the State Treasury. §1719-G also authorized the transfer of \$1.7 million from the General Fund to the Veterans' Trust Fund upon the sale of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, to be utilized for veterans' services. This legislation expands the sources of revenue to the Veterans' Trust Fund and defines the authorized purposes of such funds.

This legislation authorizes the following sources of revenue to the Veterans' Trust Fund, in addition to the General Fund transfer previously authorized in The Fiscal Code:

- Proceeds paid by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from voluntary contributions to the Veterans' Trust Fund;
- Proceeds paid by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from applications to the Department for special registration plates for veterans;
- Grants, gifts, donations and other payments from a person or governmental entity; and
- Money appropriated to the Veterans' Trust Fund.

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This legislation authorizes expenditures from the Veterans' Trust Fund for the following purposes:

- Grants to certain qualified organizations for programs or projects to support Pennsylvania veterans and their families;
- Grants or funding for new, innovative and expanded activities or programs operated by a county or state director of Veterans Affairs;
- Grants to Statewide veterans' service organizations;
- Assistance to Pennsylvania veterans in need of shelter or other necessities of living;
- Assistance to operate, maintain and repair Pennsylvania monuments honoring Pennsylvania service members and veterans; and
- Payments to the Motor License Fund for actual costs incurred by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to implement §1320 (relating to contributions to Veterans' Trust Fund) and §1510 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license) of Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

Additionally, this legislation amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding §1320 (relating to contributions to Veterans' Trust Fund). This section mandates the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to implement a program that would allow for the ability of applicants to make a contribution of \$3.00 to the Veterans' Trust Fund.

Finally, this legislation establishes a new "Honoring Our Veterans" special motor vehicle license plate and provides that the Veterans' Trust Fund shall receive the proceeds for all such plates issued.

This act shall take effect in 30 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The costs associated with designing and manufacturing these special registration plates includes the following:

- One-time cost of approximately \$500.00 for the original design and mold; and
- Approximately \$4.00 for materials and labor for each special registration plate manufactured.

It is assumed that the number of applications submitted to the Department for these special registration plates, along with the fees collected with such applications, would cover the costs associated with designing and manufacturing such plates.

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Although the Veterans' Trust Fund will receive a deposit of \$1.7 million upon the sale of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, these funds have already been appropriated via §1719-G of The Fiscal Code. Additionally, the number of contributions to the Veterans' Trust Fund from applicants for vehicle registrations, driver's licenses and identification cards cannot be determined prior to the implementation of such program and procedures.

Therefore, it is determined that there would be no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds with the enactment of this legislation.