

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 2178

PRINTER'S NO. 3855

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game Fund
Fish Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 14, 2014

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Moul

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2178 amends Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code) and Title 30 (Fish and Boat Code) to define Wildlife Conservation Officers and Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), respectively, as law enforcement officers under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act (Act 9 of 2014), after they have received training on the use of body cameras in a course approved by the Pennsylvania State Police. The bill provides that the WCOs may wear body cameras in the performance of their official duties.

This bill amends Section 901 of each title to create an exception to the prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications. The language in this section of each title provides that the respective WCOs will be included in the definition of "law enforcement officer" as provided for in the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act.

The bill specifically states that deputy waterways conservation officers, deputy Game Commission officers and deputy wildlife conservation officers shall not be included in the expanded definition of "law enforcement officer" which allows for the use of the body cameras by the WCOs.

The act takes effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The Game Commission and the Fish Commission will incur some costs for the required training but the Commissions anticipate such costs to be covered under existing operations.