

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 59

PRINTER'S NO. 28

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 4, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Ward

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to LAW AND JUSTICE, Jan. 4, 2013
Reported as committed, April 9, 2013
First consideration, April 9, 2013
Second consideration, April 16, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 17, 2013
Re-reported as committed, April 29, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 59 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) by providing that county park police officers in Westmoreland County will be required to obtain the same training as municipal police officers. The Westmoreland County park police force is authorized under section 2511(b) of The County Code.

Under current law, Subchapter D of Title 53 (Municipal Police Education and Training) requires that all municipal police officers are required to receive mandatory training. The legislation amends the definitions of "police department" and "police officer" in Title 53 such that county park police officers in Westmoreland County will be governed by these same requirements.

Senate Bill 59 provides that a municipality shall be ineligible for reimbursement for tuition and expenses for the certified basic training of county park police, and the legislation specifies that a county shall be liable for the costs incurred for any training required for the certification of county park police officers.

The act shall take effect in 90 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.

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According to information received from Westmoreland County's park police, there are twenty-seven police officers that patrol property owned and leased by the county. Furthermore, all officers receive training through the Municipal Police Officer Training Academy. The twenty-seven existing police officers also receive annual training at a cost of \$60 per officer (four classes x \$15 each). Therefore, the annual cost to the county for reimbursement with respect to the existing police officers will be \$1,620. However, beginning in 2013, if the annual training classes are completed online, the cost will be zero (\$0) for each officer choosing to complete the training online.

Presumably, Westmoreland County may be liable for the costs incurred for the basic training of newly-hired county park police officers who have not previously received training. According to the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, the basic training costs approximately \$3,000 per police officer in the Westmoreland County area. Statewide, tuition costs range from about \$2,700 to \$4,300, with the average cost of training being about \$3,500.