

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1187

PRINTER'S NO. 1726

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund
Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

November 20, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Argall

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1187 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for a Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage special vehicle registration plate, a special vehicle registration plate for individuals in the service of the United States Merchant Marine, a special vehicle registration plate for recipients of the Combat Infantry Badge and to provide for payments to special funds.

Specifically, this legislation does the following:

- Adds §1355.1 (Pennsylvania hunting heritage plate), that authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Department), in consultation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, to design a special vehicle registration plate entitled the "Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage" plate;
- Establishes a \$35 fee for such plate, which is in addition to the annual registration fee;
- Provides that \$15 of the above mentioned fee shall be deposited into the Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Fund;
- Provides that this special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight not exceeding 14,000 pounds;
- Establishes the Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Fund as a special account in the State Treasury;
- Provides that the above mentioned special fund is to be used to provide funding to nonprofit organizations that coordinate the processing and distribution of donated wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to Pennsylvania residents through a distribution network of food banks in the Commonwealth;
- Provides that fifty percent (50%) of the above mentioned special fund shall be allocated to nonprofit organizations established, prior to January 1, 2014, to conserve all birds and mammals of the Commonwealth and the ecosystems in which they live;

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- Amends §1357.1 (Special plates for individuals in the service of the United States Merchant Marine) to include persons who served in the Korean war, the Vietnam Conflict or any of the Gulf Wars, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Desert Shield as those veterans entitled to apply for a special registration plate issued under this section;
- Adds §1369.1 (Special plates for recipients of Combat Infantry Badge), that mandates the Department to issue a special vehicle registration plate, indicating that the vehicle bearing such plate, is a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, to applicants for such a plate;
- Establishes a \$20 fee for such plate, which is in addition to the annual registration fee; and
- Provides that this special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight not exceeding 14,000 pounds.

This act shall take effect in 120 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with designing and manufacturing 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.

The additional revenue generated for the newly created Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Fund is dependent on the number of applicants for such plates, therefore it cannot be quantified at this time. All funds in the Fund are annually appropriated to the Pennsylvania Game Commission to be expended for the purposes authorized in this legislation and outlined above.