

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1253

PRINTER'S NO. 1772

AMOUNT

No Adverse Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund & Historical Preservation Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 19, 2014

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robbins

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1253 amends Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modernize the History Code with regard to the administration of the State Archives, archival records and other matters as follows:

- Removes provision requiring the Historical and Museum Commission (HMC) to make an annual report on the Conservation Center which it no longer operates.
- Removes provisions requiring the HMC to notify donors or their predecessors when disposing of non-beneficial items.
- Provides for the sale or disposal of abandoned property on loan to the HMC.
- Provides for the HMC to administer the State Archives and for the State Archives to be the official repository for permanent and historically valuable public records of the Commonwealth.
- Provides for the HMC to maintain and preserve state and local government records.
- Prohibits the sale or transfer of Commonwealth archival records unless authorized by law and provides for a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500 for violating this provision.
- Provides procedures by which the HMC may retrieve Commonwealth and local archival records held by unauthorized persons.
- Provides access to archival records 75 years or older, unless specifically prohibited by law.
- Removes the following properties which have been transferred or sold to other entities from the law: Cahiers House; Fort Augusta; John Brown House; Old Brown's Mill School; Old Custom House; Pottsgrove Mansion; and, Sodom School House.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The Historical and Museum Commission believes the enactment of Senate Bill 1253 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. Funds from the sale of non-beneficial items and abandoned property would be deposited in the Historical Preservation Fund for use by the HMC.