

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 49

**PRINTER NO.** 2546

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 21, 2015

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Sainato

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 49 amends the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act (Act 101 of 1976) to extend death benefits to members of the Civil Air patrol who have died as a result of the performance of their duties. The bill also requires the application for benefits to be made by the Pennsylvania Commander of the Civil Air Patrol and changes the deadline for application of benefits to the Department of General Services from four (4) years to three (3) years.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

As a result of the enactment of House Bill 49, the Commonwealth will be required to pay a death benefit to the surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the minor children of a member of the Civil Air Patrol who dies as a result of the performance of their duties. The death benefit provided under Act 101 was set at \$50,000 in 1994 and is adjusted annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. According to the Department of General Services Bureau of Risk Management, the death benefit adjusted for inflation in FY 2016-2017 amounts \$131,946.

At present, there are approximately 2,500 active members of the Civil Air Patrol in the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania Commander of the Civil Air Patrol has indicated that there have been no incidents where members of the Civil Air Patrol have died as a result of the performance of their duties over the last three (3) years.