

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 59

PRINTER NO. 51

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 21, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Baker

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 59 establishes the Hepatitis C Screening Act which requires that all individuals born between the years 1945 and 1965 be offered a hepatitis C screening or diagnostic test if receiving:

- inpatient services in a hospital; or
- primary care services in an outpatient department of a hospital, health care facility, or physician's office.

If an individual agrees to the screening test and the test is reactive, the health care provider shall offer either follow-up care or a referral for follow-up care. Follow-up care shall include a hepatitis C diagnostic test.

Exceptions:

A health care practitioner does not have to offer the test if it is reasonably believed that the individual:

- is being treated for a life-threatening emergency;
- has previously been offered or been the subject of a hepatitis C screening test unless otherwise indicated; or
- lacks capacity to consent to a screening test.

This act does not affect the scope of practice of any health care practitioner or their professional obligations.

The Department of Health is responsible for ensuring the offering of the hepatitis C screening test is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

This act shall take effect in 6 months.

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FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 59 could increase costs related to screening tests and diagnostic tests for recipients in the Department of Human Services Medical Assistance (MA) Program and Commonwealth employees receiving health care coverage through the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund by up to \$1.339 million in the state funding. This maximum amount assumes that managed care organizations under the capitation program would seek and be granted a rate increase relative to the testing provisions of HB 59.

Department of Human Services (DHS):

DHS identified 343,435 eligible recipients within the age cohort in the Medical Assistance Program. Assuming approximately 25% of these recipients (85,859) would be screened for hepatitis C at a cost of \$19.00 per screening, there would be a total cost of \$1.631 million (\$0.522 million in state). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 3.25 percent of the people born within this age cohort would test positive for hepatitis C. Thus, 2,790 individuals would be subjected to the hepatitis C diagnostic test at a cost of \$39.65 for a total cost of \$0.111 million (\$0.035 million in state). Again these costs assume a rate increase. Actual costs could be significantly lower if the MCOs absorb these costs within their PMPM.

Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund (PEBTF):

PEBTF identified 154,154 eligible recipients within the age cohort. Assuming that 25% of these recipients (38,539) would be screened for hepatitis C at a cost of \$19.00 for a state cost of \$0.732 million. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 3.25 percent of the people born within this age cohort would test positive for hepatitis C. Thus, 1,253 individuals would be subjected to the hepatitis C diagnostic test at a cost of \$39.65 for a state cost of \$0.050 million.