

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 2058

PRINTER NO. 3428

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 11, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Farry

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2058 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by expanding the scope of practice for paramedics related to drawing of blood and Title 42 (Judicial Code) regarding paramedic user fees.

HB 2058 requires the Department of Health (DOH) to promulgate regulations to establish standards and criteria for blood draw services by a paramedic.

Expands the scope and practice of a paramedic to provide legal blood draws in limited cases.

Authorizes an EMS agency and paramedic to provide assistance to law enforcement upon request to perform legal blood draws on behalf of a licensed EMS agency from persons suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Authorizes the use of an EMS agency's vehicle in the provision of services. The EMS agency must implement vehicle use policies to ensure that an ambulance is always available for a 911 emergency call.

Makes it permissible for a law enforcement officer who witnessed the blood draw to testify in place of a paramedic in court as to the chain of custody of the blood draw.

Expands liability protection to the paramedic who performs blood draw services under the statute.

Requires the payment of a paramedic user fee, upon an offender's conviction for an offense, including a fee for sending a paramedic to court proceedings. The fee is to be paid to the EMS agency and can only be used for the provision of criminal laboratory services.

This act shall take effect in 90 days, except the Department of Health's requirement to promulgate regulations to establish standards for EMS services, which is effective immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 2058 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. Any administrative costs related to the promulgation of regulations can be absorbed within the Department of Health's current General Government Operations' funding.