

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 2148

PRINTER NO. 4064

AMOUNT

\$93,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 9, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Farry

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2148 amends the Enforcement Officers Benefits Law, commonly referred to as the Heart and Lung Act, to cover certain individuals employed as firefighters.

The legislation extends the coverage of benefits under the Heart and Lung Act to include the following individuals:

1. Paid firemen not employed by the Commonwealth;
2. Emergency medical services personnel employed within a city fire department;
3. Firemen of airport authorities, including fire suppression instructors;
4. Fire and safety marshals who are firemen employed by the Commonwealth;
5. Fire Academy instructors employed at the State Fire Academy;
6. Assistant fire marshals employed by the Commonwealth; and
7. Forest patrolmen and forest technicians employed by the Commonwealth.

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Governor's Office of Administration (OA) estimates that it could cost approximately \$93,000 to cover the costs related to this bill. According to OA, there are approximately 12 injuries per year at an average bi-weekly salary of \$1,700 that may be covered under the provisions of HB 2148. Heart and Lung covers approximately two-thirds of the average weekly wage, equaling roughly \$1,100. Most injured employees with non-sedentary jobs are off work for about 3 months, which equates to about \$7,700 per employee.

OA estimates that there could also be administrative and operational costs related to claims processing and appeals of about \$45,000 annually. These costs can be absorbed within existing fiscal resources.

The changes proposed in HB 2148 have the potential to impact municipalities with paid emergency medical services personnel and firemen employed within a fire department.