

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 2291

PRINTER NO. 3769

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

August 16, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Miccarelli

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2291 amends a supplementary act to the Board of Wardens for the Port of Philadelphia Act (Act 210 of 1889) to increase rates of pilotage and computation and pilotage fees.

This legislation increases the rates that river pilots charge for conducting vessels from the Capes of the Delaware to a place on the Delaware River or Bay up to the Delair Railroad Bridge and also for every ship and vessel bound to the Delaware breakwater.

This bill maintains the current rate for state-licensed pilots of \$14.05 per unit through 2017, increasing the rate to \$14.19 per unit in January 2018 and \$14.47 per unit in January 2019. This reflects a 1 percent increase in 2018 and a 2 percent increase in 2019.

House Bill 2291 maintains the current minimum charge of 200 units but increases the maximum unit charge, effective January 2017, from 1,400 units to 1,450 units and to 1,500 units effective January 2018 and January 2019.

The legislation increases a ship's transport charge for vessels transiting the Delaware River by \$50 as follows:

- Philadelphia (or other place) to Marcus Hook, from \$750 to \$800
- Philadelphia (or other place) below Marcus Hook, from \$750 to \$800
- Philadelphia Harbor to Torresdale, from \$750 to \$800
- Philadelphia Harbor to any place above Torresdale, from \$1,000 to \$1,050

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or political subdivision funds. The pilot fees, increased within this legislation, are paid by a shipping company to the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware which are necessary to maintain traffic control, for safety equipment, and to provide for pilots' salaries. The charges provide the funding necessary to maintain the shipping traffic safety system in the Delaware River and Bay.