

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 16

PRINTER NO. 1956

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 20, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Yudichak

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 16 establishes a lead task force within the Joint State Government Commission of the Commonwealth (Commission) to assess and study the prevalence of lead exposure in the Commonwealth. The task force is to study remedies used by the Commonwealth and other states in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly on changes to laws, regulations, rules or programs to ensure that the health of the residents of the Commonwealth is protected from the effects of lead.

The task force shall be composed of the following members:

- The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Environmental Protection, or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Education, or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Human Services, or his or her designee;
- The chairperson of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency, or his or her designee;
- The Physician General of the Commonwealth, or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania;
- Nine members appointed by the Commission as follows:
 1. Two individuals who are pediatric doctors with experience in lead poisoning;
 2. One individual who is the parent of a child with elevated lead levels;
 3. One individual representing municipal water authorities;
 4. One individual representing rural water companies;
 5. One individual representing investor-owned water companies;
 6. One individual who is certified to remediate lead in this Commonwealth;
 7. One individual who works in maintenance in an urban school district;
 8. One individual who works in maintenance in a school in a rural school district;

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- One member of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

The task force shall work with the Department of Health to assess lead as a public health concern by reviewing the Commonwealth's laws, regulations, policies and procedures and comparing them to other states'. The task force's analysis and recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. An assessment of the age of the Commonwealth's housing, water pipelines, school buildings and day-care facilities;
2. An assessment of the threat of lead exposure to public health;
3. An assessment of the prevalence of lead in homes, schools, day-cares and other places in which children spend the majority of their time;
4. An assessment of the Commonwealth's approach to lead testing and remediation and how it compares to other states;
5. An assessment of the cost of remediating lead hazards in the Commonwealth and potential funding sources for remediation assistance programs; and
6. Other assessments of lead-related issues deemed appropriate by the Commission.

The legislation requires the task force to submit a report containing its findings and recommendations no later than December 31, 2017, to the following:

- The Governor;
- The President pro tempore of the Senate;
- The Minority Leader of the Senate;
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Upon submission of the report mentioned above, the task force shall transmit a notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Once the notice is published, this act will expire.

The task force shall hold its first meeting within 60 days of the effective date of the act and shall meet as deemed necessary by the Commission. The bill requires the Commission to provide office space, administrative support and any other technical assistance required by the task force.

This act shall take effect immediately.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation simply establishes a task force to study the hazards and possible remedies of lead exposure within the Commonwealth. The members of the task force will be serving on a voluntary basis and will receive no compensation from the Commission. Although the Commission is required to provide office space, administrative support and other technical assistance to the task force, those costs are expected to be de minimis and capable of being absorbed within existing fiscal resources of the Commission.