

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 396

PRINTER NO. 311

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 4, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Vance

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 396 reenacts the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for a period of four years.

SB 396 reenacts the Health Care Cost Containment Council Act through June 30, 2019. The Health Care Cost Containment Council Act expired on June 30, 2014, and is currently operating under an Executive Order.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, otherwise known as PHC4, is an independent state agency that strives to give consumers, purchasers and providers quality comparative data for the purpose of making informed health care purchasing decisions. It has been in existence since 1986.

The PHC4's primary responsibilities are to:

- Collect, analyze and make available to the public data about the cost and quality of health care;
- Study the issue of access to care for the uninsured; and
- Review and make recommendations regarding proposed or existing health care mandates.

The operations of the PHC4 are funded through the General Fund budget and revenue from the sale of data generated by the council.

This act shall take effect immediately and be retroactive to June 29, 2014, when the Health Care Cost Containment Act expired.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SB 396 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. PHC4 is currently in existence and funded. SB 396 authorizes the continuation of PHC4 in statute.