

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 104

**PRINTER NO.** 3818

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 23, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Godshall

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 104 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to provide for additional transparency over municipal authority acquisitions and enhanced reporting requirements for municipal authorities.

This legislation requires every authority to provide an annual report of its fiscal affairs to the Department of Community and Economic Development and the municipalities creating the authority. The reports are required to be submitted within 180 days following the end of their fiscal year and shall be posted on the authority's website. In addition, House Bill 104 requires authorities without a publicly accessible internet website to provide the annual report to any other municipality that has customers served by the authority.

The legislation prohibits an authority from acquiring a facility constituting a project without discussion of the proposed acquisition at a public meeting and a discussion on the public benefit as recorded by the meeting minutes.

House Bill 104 prohibits the sale or transfer of authority water or sewer infrastructure without discussion at a public meeting, including a discussion on the public benefit as recorded by the meeting minutes. Public benefits may include rate reductions, improved service quality and reliability, rate stabilization, or any other benefit to a rate payer.

In addition, the legislation provides the Auditor General the authority to audit an authority in Westmoreland County, to be concluded by December 31, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Office of the Auditor General can accommodate the additional work within its current funding and staffing levels, which may result in the delay or reduction of other auditing functions performed by the office.