

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 211

**PRINTER NO.** 1269

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

April 7, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Bloom

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 211 establishes the Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program Act within the Department of Human Services.

HB 211 establishes a Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program to provide a grant to qualified applicants for the development, implementation, operation and support of a Statewide 2-1-1 system.

The Department shall develop and implement a process to award grants to qualified applicants to be used for the following purposes:

- To provide Statewide 2-1-1 system services 24 hours each day, including to regions of the Commonwealth that do not have access to a provider of 2-1-1-system services.
- To expand access to 2-1-1 system services and the database to a 2-1-1 through text-to-chat, mobile application and the Internet.
- To permit the disbursement of funds, with the approval of the department, to regional providers of 2-1-1- system services for satisfying 2-1-1 quality assurance standards used by similar programs in other states.
- For any other purpose deemed appropriate by the department for carrying out the provisions of the act.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

HB 211 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth unless funding is provided for the Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program through the appropriation process. Currently, the PA 2-1-1 system is supported by funds raised by the United Ways across the state and other private funders. United Ways will continue their support of 2-1-1, with additional funds being used for the development of a statewide public-private partnership for health and human service information and referral using the three digit dialing code.