

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1843

**PRINTER NO.** 4082

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

October 11, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Grove

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1843 amends Title 72 (Taxation and Fiscal Affairs) to increase fiscal and budget transparency of Commonwealth funds.

Agency Budget Documents – House Bill 1843 requires Commonwealth agencies to provide to the Majority and Minority Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees the original, unedited budget documentation submitted to the Office of the Budget in preparation of the Governor’s Budget. Budget documentation shall be available no later than the first Monday of November, beginning in 2019.

State Treasury Transparency Portal – The legislation also codifies the transparency portal which has been developed and maintained by the Treasury Department (Treasury). The portal, which is housed on the Treasury’s website, will contain information relating to the Commonwealth’s finances, including:

- Figures and visual aids demonstrating growth or reduction in expenditures since at least FY 2014-15;
- An analysis of General Fund information, updated to reflect the General Fund balance at the end of the prior business day. The analysis will include:
  - Cash flow changes beginning in FY 2014-15;
  - Current General Fund balance;
  - General Fund expenditures, delineating each expenditure by the responsible agency; and
  - General Fund revenues, including the difference between estimated revenues and actual revenues for a given fiscal year.
- Information accurately reflecting the Commonwealth’s finances at the end of the previous business day, including expenditures from special funds or restricted accounts, agency expenditures and any daily changes. In order to post this information, agencies are required to provide data collected under the Pennsylvania Web Accountability and Transparency Act (PennWATCH) to Treasury staff.
- Information relating to the Treasury’s investments, both short and long term, including the daily balances of each fund within the Treasury-managed investment pools;

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- An analysis of the appropriations for Commonwealth programs, including, total budgeted appropriation, total augmented revenue, total appropriation spent and percentage of the total appropriation spent;
- A list of the top 20 highest expenditures as designated by appropriation within the General Fund, beginning with FY 2018-19; and
- The ten Commonwealth agencies with the largest General Fund expenditures during the current fiscal year, starting with FY 2018-19.

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of House Bill 1843 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the majority of the information required to be posted on the transparency portal as outlined in the legislation is currently available to be viewed on Treasury's website. According to Treasury, any costs related to displaying budget information that is presently not on the transparency portal could be accommodated within the department's current workload and budget. Additionally, Commonwealth agencies are able to transmit budget requests to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees within existing budgeted amounts.