

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 211

PRINTER NO. 943

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 24, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Browne

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

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

SB 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:

SB 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.