

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 552

PRINTER NO. 589

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund
Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and
Memorial Trust Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 24, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Aument

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 552 amends Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to establish the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund.

Title 51 (Military Affairs)

Amendments to Title 51 (Military Affairs) include the following:

- Establishes a separate fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund;
- Stipulates that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department) will administer the Fund;
- Requires the State Veterans' Commission to assist the Department with the Fund;
- Requires that the moneys in the Fund shall be used for the promotion, administration, operation, maintenance and completion of the monuments and memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania veterans and military units;
- Authorizes the Department to accept gifts, donations, legacies, and usages of money from individuals, organizations, public or private corporations and other similar entities and to solicit and raise moneys from public and private sources;
- Allows the Department to use up to 2% of the available funds for the administration of the Fund;
- Requires that money must be granted for the operation and maintenance of monuments as designated by the Department. At a minimum, the following monuments will receive funding, as needed for operation and maintenance:
 - Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the grounds of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery,
 - American battle monuments located overseas that are officially owned or recognized by the Commonwealth,
 - Pennsylvania unit monuments and markers within the Gettysburg National Military Park, and

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- Other Pennsylvania military memorials and monuments as designated or recognized by the Department.

Title 75 (Vehicles)

Title 75 (Vehicles) is amended by redirecting proceeds received from the sale of Pennsylvania monument registration plates to the newly established Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund. Currently, these funds are deposited into The Veterans' Trust Fund.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of this legislation will have no adverse effect on Commonwealth funds. This legislation essentially eliminates the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund and creates a new fund entitled the "Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund" to promote, administer, operate, maintain and complete the construction of monuments and memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania veterans and military units.

Current revenues being deposited into the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund would be deposited into the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund after enactment of this legislation.

According to the Governor's Executive Budget for FY 2017-18, total funds available in the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund are \$79,000 and estimated disbursements of \$75,000.