

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 625

PRINTER NO. 1288

AMOUNT

\$7,471.00
First Year Costs

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 17, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Brooks

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 625 amends the act of March 4, 1970 (P.L.128, No.49), entitled "An act granting to the Governor of the Commonwealth the sole authority for regulating the display of the flag of the United States from any public ground or building and from any ground or building of certain other institutions," further providing for display of flag.

Section 1 (c) is amended to require the continuous display of the official POW/MIA flag, from a flag pole, at all roadside rests and Welcome Centers in the Commonwealth.

Current law only requires the continuous display of the official POW/MIA flag in "Soldiers' Grove" on the grounds of the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the agency maintains 35 roadside rest areas and 12 Welcome Centers throughout the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) advises that they maintain 15 service plazas on the Turnpike, although these sites would not be affected by this legislation.

The legislation provides that if the roadside rest or welcome center has an existing flag pole, the POW/MIA flag may be flown from such flag pole. Additionally, when the POW/MIA flag is to be displayed with a flag flown at half mast, the POW/MIA flag may be removed.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, most flag poles maintained by the Commonwealth have two (2) flags being flown from such poles: the flag of the United States of America and the flag of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In order to add a third flag to these existing poles, additional hardware would need to be installed as well, including a lanyard, beaded retainer ring and a counter weight. The costs for a POW/MIA flag and the above mentioned hardware are as follows:

- POW/MIA Flag - \$1,126 (\$23.95 each) (Carrot-Top Industries, Inc.);
- Lanyard - \$1,880 (\$40 each);
- Beaded Retainer Ring - \$2,350 (\$50 each); and

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

- Counter Weight - \$2,115 (\$45 each).

Therefore, enactment of this legislation would result in the Commonwealth incurring a total cost of \$7,471. Given the small cost of this legislation, PennDOT will be able to absorb these costs within its existing appropriations. Annual replacements of the POW/MIA flags due to inclement weather would result in an additional \$1,126 costs.