

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 655

**PRINTER NO.** 993

**AMOUNT**

No Adverse Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 2, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Yaw

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 655 amends The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act by establishing the Pennsylvania Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing Advisory Council and requiring the Secretary of Health to promulgate regulations regarding opioid prescription guidelines.

SB 655 requires the Department of Health to promulgate regulations relating to the prescription of opioids. The guidelines and regulations must be consistent with the prescribing guidelines issued by the Pennsylvania Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing Advisory Council.

The regulations will govern:

1. Opioids for chronic, non-cancer pain.
2. Emergency department pain treatment.
3. Opioids in dentistry.
4. Dispensing guidelines.
5. Obstetrics and gynecology pain.
6. Geriatric pain.
7. Addiction treatment medications regarding pregnant patients.
8. Benzodiazepines for anxiety and insomnia.
9. Opioids in orthopedics and sports medicine.

The bill requires the regulations to have the force of law and to be subject to sanctions by licensing boards.

The bill establishes the Pennsylvania Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing Advisory Council (the "advisory council"). The advisory council shall consist of the Secretaries of Health, Human Services, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Aging, State, and the Physician General, as well as 19 members selected by the Governor and representing various areas of the medical community.

The advisory council shall meet upon the call of the chair but not less than semiannually. Members shall serve two-year staggered terms. Advisory council members will not be compensated but may be reimbursed for travel and reasonable expenses.

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The bill requires the advisory council to examine and make recommendations regarding opioid prescribing and dispensing practices. The Department of Health must issue regulations consistent with the recommendations of the advisory council.

The advisory council shall also issue an annual report on its activities and recommendations to the Governor; the Secretaries of Health, Human Services, Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Aging; and the General Assembly.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 655 will have no adverse fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. The Department of Health will be required to reimburse members of the council for travel and related expenses. This reimbursement can be accommodated within the Department of Health's General Government Operations appropriation.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Health to promulgate regulations, which can be accomplished within existing staffing levels and funding provided to the department.