

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 374

**PRINTER NO.** 2062

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund  
Motor License Fund  
Keystone Tree Restricted Account

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 5, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Everett

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 374 amends Titles 27 (Environmental Resources) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Keystone Tree Restricted Account (account) within the General Fund and provides for contributions to the account to be utilized for certain purposes with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

This legislation provides that the DCNR may solicit donations for deposit into the account. Additionally, within one year of the effective date of the act, the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) shall provide for the ability of a person renewing a driver's license, identification card or vehicle registration to make a contribution of \$3 to the account. Contributions may be made electronically through PennDOT's publicly accessible internet website. PennDOT shall determine on a monthly basis the total amount collected and direct the State Treasurer to transfer the amount from the Motor License Fund to the account. The account shall reimburse the Motor License Fund for actual costs incurred in the collection process.

The funds in the account are appropriated on a continuing basis to DCNR for the following purposes:

- 40% of the funds to be utilized for a tree vitalize program; and
- 60% of the funds to be utilized for a riparian forest buffer grant program.

The above mentioned programs are intended to expand tree canopy coverage and help Pennsylvania meet its goals related to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which provides for certain forest buffer and tree canopy capacities.

DCNR is prohibited from using any of the funds for administrative costs.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Any additional costs to DCNR related to the collection and administration of these funds are capable of being accommodated within the department’s current workload and budget.

PennDOT advises that system changes are necessary to comply with the requirements of this legislation and are estimated to cost \$150,000. These costs will be reimbursed from the Keystone Tree Restricted Account prior to those funds being utilized for any other purpose.

The following table lists collections for other PennDOT contribution programs for the most recent fiscal year.

<b>Contribution Program:</b>	<b>FY 2018-19 Contributions:</b>
Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund	\$591,000
Veterans Trust Fund	\$1,350,000

Actual revenue to the account will be determined by any donations and the amount of actual contributions received. Based on the experience of similar programs, the account could receive between \$591,000 and \$1.3 million each year, offset by costs to reimburse PennDOT.