

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1516

PRINTER NO. 2124

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 29, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Causer

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1516 adds a new Chapter 111 (Agriculture Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account) to Title 3 (Agriculture) establishing a restricted account in the Treasury administered by the Department of Agriculture (department) to allocate money for rapid response to control disasters affecting agriculture.

The legislation provides that money from the account may be used to provide for the transportation of livestock feed during a declared disaster, and up to \$100,000 annually may be used for research to control or mitigate transmissible animal diseases, plant pests and diseases, controlled plants and noxious weeds, foodborne illnesses, hazardous substance contamination and disasters affecting agriculture. It provides that up to \$250,000 of the money in the account be used annually for planning, developing and maintaining animal response and rescue capabilities by entities approved by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the department. It also provides that money from the account be used for training programs to prepare for or respond to a threat to agriculture.

The legislation provides that the department may cooperate with other regulatory agencies and the federal government in administering funding. The restricted account contained in the legislation is non-lapsing and interest-bearing, and may only be used for the purposes outlined in this chapter.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 1516 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Funding for the Agriculture Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account will be dependent upon appropriations made by the General Assembly through the annual General Appropriations Act.