

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 146

PRINTER NO. 426

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 31, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Brooks

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 146 amends Title 35 to establish guidelines for the State Fire Commission's online training for firefighters.

This legislation would require that the State Fire Commissioner (commissioner) establish guidelines for the portion of the Fireworks Tax that has been dedicated to establishing online training for firefighters. It also provides minimum guidelines that must be met including:

- Be available to volunteer firefighters and expand the program to career firefighters;
- Be voluntary and offered free of charge; and
- Be incorporated into the commissioner's online training system.

Senate Bill 146 will also require the commissioner to provide a certificate of completion and to post all available online training courses on the commission's website.

This legislation will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Act 43 of 2017 that established the taxation on the sale of fireworks provided a maximum of \$500,000 annually to be utilized for the establishment of an online training program for firefighters. That legislation also required the commissioner to establish guidelines for the use of those funds.

Senate Bill 146 provides a minimum standard for the use of the funds in administering the online training program. This legislation will not necessitate programmatic changes because the training is already offered online, resulting in no additional cost to Commonwealth funds.