

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 238

PRINTER NO. 202

AMOUNT

\$5,850,000

FUND

General Fund Restricted Revenue Account

DATE INTRODUCED

February 7, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Browne

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 238 appropriates \$5,850,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in the Office of Attorney General.

The OCA represents Pennsylvania utility consumers in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and other state and federal agencies and in courts. The OCA also represents the interests of Pennsylvania consumers in non-governmental organizations, such as the PJM Interconnection.

The OCA is funded through a direct assessment on the companies that are under the jurisdiction of the PUC. No General Fund revenues are used to support the OCA's operations.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 238 will cost the restricted revenue account within the General Fund \$5,850,000 in Fiscal Year 2019-20. That preliminary funding amount is level with last year's budget and represents a \$175,000 decrease from the Governor's proposed level. This appropriation will be revised when a final funding amount for FY 2019-20 is determined.