

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 276

PRINTER NO. 227

AMOUNT

\$934,800 additional costs

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 7, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator J. Ward

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 276 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the monthly pension of participants in the Blind Veteran's Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran's Pension programs.

This legislation amends Sections 7701(b) and 7702(a) of Title 51 by increasing the monthly pension payments for blind, amputee and paralyzed veterans from \$150 to \$180.

The statute provides that the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania determines the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and his decision in the matter shall be final.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enacted FY 2019-20 General Appropriation Act appropriated \$222,000 for the Blind Veteran's Pension and \$3.714 million for the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension. The Governor's Executive Budget for FY 2020-21 proposes to maintain funding for these appropriations at the current fiscal year's level.

This legislation increases the monthly pension payments by \$30 for each eligible veteran from \$150 to \$180. According to the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs, the number of participants of the Blind Veteran's Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran's Pension programs along with the annual costs for FY 2020-21 are anticipated to be as follows:

- Blind Veteran's Pension – 105 costing \$226,800; and
- Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran's Pension – 2,150 costing \$4.644 million.

Therefore, enactment of this legislation will require an additional \$934,800 appropriation from the General Fund to operate these programs.