

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 543

PRINTER NO. 607

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 10, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Killion

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 543 amends a supplementary act to the Board of Wardens for the Port of Philadelphia Act (Act 210 of 1889) to increase rates of pilotage and computation and pilotage fees.

This legislation increases the rates that river pilots charge for conducting vessels from the Capes of the Delaware to a place on the Delaware River or Bay up to the Delair Railroad Bridge and for every ship and vessel bound to the Delaware breakwater.

This bill maintains the current rate for state-licensed pilots of \$14.47 per unit through 2019, increasing the rate to \$14.61 per unit on January 1, 2020, \$14.76 on January 1, 2021 and \$14.91 per unit on January 1, 2022. This reflects a 1 percent increase in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The legislation maintains the current minimum charge of 200 units but increases the maximum unit charge, effective January 1, 2020, from 1,500 units to 1,550 units and maintains that rate through 2021 and 2022.

The legislation increases a ship's communication charge by \$30.00, from \$235.00 to \$265.00.

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or political subdivision funds. The pilot fees, increased within this legislation, are paid by a shipping company to the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware which are necessary to maintain traffic control, for safety equipment, and to provide for pilots' salaries. Although the ships vary in size and cargo, the rate increase averages approximately \$95 per vessel. The charges provide the funding necessary to maintain the shipping traffic safety system in the Delaware River and Bay.