

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 841

PRINTER NO. 1323

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 3, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Martin

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 841 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to reauthorize the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4).

The PHC4 was established through Act 89 of 1986, reauthorized by Act 3 of 2009, and expired on June 30, 2014. The PHC4 has continued to operate under executive order since 2014.

This legislation makes changes to the composition of the council, adding four members of the General Assembly, appointed by the President pro tempore and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Attendance may be accomplished by electronic means as long as real time communication with other members and the public is available.

The majority of the powers and duties of the PHC4 remain unchanged under Senate Bill 841. PHC4 will continue to be responsible for the collection, analysis and public dissemination of data on the cost and quality of health care in Pennsylvania. The PHC4 is required to provide an annual report on its financial expenditures to the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the Health Committee and the Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 841 does not include a sunset date for the PHC4.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT

Act 1A of 2019, the General Appropriations Act, appropriated \$3.4 million for the operations of the PHC4. Enactment of Senate Bill 841 will have no additional fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds beyond what has been appropriated through Act 1A.