

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 957

PRINTER NO. 1402

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Veterans' Trust Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

November 15, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Bartolotta

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 957 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to establish servicemember-owned small business logotypes.

This legislation provides that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (department) shall design an official Commonwealth logotype to be used by veteran, reservist or National Guard-owned businesses, which shall include the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and one of the following phrases:

- "Pennsylvania veteran-owned business;"
- "Pennsylvania reservist-owned business;" or
- "Pennsylvania National Guard-owned business."

Additionally, the legislation provides for all of the following:

- Certain eligibility requirements along with a verification process;
- Requires the department to post on the department's publicly accessible internet website a notice that logotypes created under this legislation are available to eligible businesses and criteria necessary to receive the logotypes, along with access to the applications and directions on how to submit the applications;
- Allows the department to establish a nominal fee to cover the cost of verification and to utilize funds from the Veterans' Trust Fund to establish the logotypes and a system for verification;
- Establishes that an individual commits a misdemeanor of the third degree if the individual fraudulently holds the individual out to be a veteran, reservist or National Guard member for the purpose of obtaining a logotype established under this legislation; and
- Requires the full amount of each fine collected for violations of this section to be deposited into the Veterans' Trust Fund.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 957 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs can accommodate the additional workload requirements of this bill within existing staffing levels. Additionally, the legislation permits the department to utilize funds from the Veterans' Trust Fund but does not require it.

The legislation permits the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish a nominal fee to cover the cost of verification. The amount of revenue raised will be dependent on the amount of the fee and the number of verifications processed.