

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1281

PRINTER NO. 1943

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund
Local Municipal Funds

DATE INTRODUCED

August 31, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mastriano

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1281 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes rebranding the "Steer Clear Law" to the "Move Over Law" and increasing fines and penalties for violations.

This legislation amends Title 75 as follows:

- § 1535 (relating to schedule of convictions and points) is amended to assess two points to a driver's record for violating § 3327(a) (relating to duty of driver in emergency response areas);
- § 3327 (relating to duty of driver in emergency response areas) is amended to:
 - 1) Clarify that a driver of a vehicle approaching or passing an emergency response area, if passing in a nonadjacent lane is impossible, illegal or unsafe, pass the emergency response area at a speed to no more than 20 miles per hour or less than the posted speed limit;
 - 2) Increases the fine for a first offense from "not more than \$250" to \$500;
 - 3) Increases the fine for a second offense from "not more than \$500" to \$1,000; and
 - 4) Increases the fine for a third or subsequent offense from "not more than \$1,000" to \$2,000.
- Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (department) to educate the public of the provisions of the "Move Over Law" periodically throughout the year and to maintain information on the department's publicly accessible internet website. Additionally, the department shall refer to the education effort as the "Move Over" campaign; and
- Clarifies that this act may be referred to as the "Move Over Law."

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds, although it may generate additional revenue to be deposited into the Motor License Fund and municipal funds due to the increased fine levels.

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) there were 3,723 convictions of § 3327 (relating to duty of driver in emergency response areas) in 2019. Assuming the majority of these convictions were first offenses and received a fine of \$250, a similar number of convictions would generate \$1,861,500 under the increased fine amounts, which is an increase of \$930,750.

According to the department, it will incur costs in making computer system changes to add the points violation. These costs would be minimal and are capable of being accommodated within the agency's current workload and budget.