

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 326

PRINTER NO. 388

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 28, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative O’Neal

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 326 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding a subsection providing for the distribution and administration of items for a virus.

This legislation adds a new subsection under §508 (relating to active duty for emergency) to provide that within 45 days of the effective date of the new subsection and in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (department) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) may develop plans for the establishment and operation of a site for the community distribution and administration of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies and vaccines for a virus in each region of the Commonwealth, as identified by the department. Administration of the vaccine shall include the inoculation of individuals by members of the PANG who possess the required training.

The bill requires the Governor to establish and submit to the General Assembly, within 45 days of the effective date of the new subsection, a report on the integration of the PANG into the Commonwealth’s plan for the distribution and administration of any vaccine for COVID-19, including the administration of the vaccine to individuals by members of the PANG. The report shall be prepared in consultation with the Secretary of Health, the Director of PEMA and the Adjutant General of the PANG and shall include the following:

- 1) Availability and capacity of medical units of the PANG for the administration of any vaccine for COVID-19 to individuals;
- 2) Availability and capacity of other PANG units for supportive missions, including logistics and preparation for community vaccination clinics;
- 3) Critical missions of the PANG, including the deployment of members to skilled nursing facilities to combat outbreaks of COVID-19;
- 4) Current and anticipated allocations of any vaccine for COVID-19 available to the Commonwealth; and
- 5) Federal guidance on the use of the National Guard for the purposes under this subsection.

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FISCAL NOTE

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

On January 21, 2021, the President of the United States signed the Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States (memorandum).

This memorandum states that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shall fund 100 percent of the cost of activities associated with all mission assignments for the use of the National Guard under 32 U.S.C. 502(f) to respond to COVID-19, as authorized by sections 403 (42 U.S.C. 5170b), 502 (42 U.S.C. 5192), and 503 (42 U.S.C. 5193) of the Stafford Act.

Additionally, the memorandum clarifies that FEMA shall make assistance available at a 100 percent federal cost share until September 30, 2021.

Therefore, enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.