

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2420

PRINTER NO. 2831

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 16, 2022

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Quinn

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2420 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 \$14.91 per unit through 2022, increasing the rate to \$15.66 per unit on January 1, 2023, \$16.44 on January 1, 2024 and \$17.26 per unit on January 1, 2025. This reflects a 5 percent increase in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The legislation maintains the current minimum charge of 200 units and maintains the maximum unit charge of 1,550 units, through 2025.

The legislation increases a ship's communication charge by \$10.00, from \$265.00 to \$275.00. It increases the fees for transportation to Marcus Hook, below Marcus Hook, to Torresdale from \$800, to \$1,000, and to any place above Torresdale from \$1,050 to \$1,200. The fee for anchoring below Brown Shoal in excess of three hours is increased from \$450 to \$500. The cancellation charge is increased from \$600 to \$1,000.

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

House Bill 2420 would have no 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 for traffic control, safety equipment and pilots' salaries. The charges provide the funding necessary to maintain the shipping traffic safety system in the Delaware River and Bay.