

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 162

PRINTER NO. 43

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund
Educational Assistance Program Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 17, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Hutchinson

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 162 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to enhance the Medical Officer or Health Care Officer Incentive Program.

Specifically, this legislation amends Subchapter B of Chapter 32 as follows:

- Renames the “Medical Officer or Health Officer Incentive Program” to the “Medical Officer or Health Care Officer Incentive Program;”
- Deletes the following definitions:
 - 1) Behavioral Health Officer;
 - 2) Medical Officer or Health Officer;
 - 3) Physician;
 - 4) Physician Assistant; and
 - 5) Public Health Officer.
- Adds the definition of “Health Care Officer” as an officer who serves in one of the Air Force’s following health care professions:
 - 1) Doctor;
 - 2) Nurse;
 - 3) Dentist;
 - 4) Allied Health; or
 - 5) Administration.
- Adds the definition of “Medical Officer” as an officer who serves in one of the Army Medical Department’s six corps as follows:
 - 1) Dental Corps;
 - 2) Medical Corps;
 - 3) Medical Services Corps;
 - 4) Medical Specialist Corps;
 - 5) Nurse Corps; or
 - 6) Veterinary Corps.
- Replaces the term “Health Officer” with “Health Care Officer.”
- Replaces the current stipend formula with a tiered stipend as follows:

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

- 1) For a doctoral degree - \$1,000 per month for no more than 48 months of medicine residency or the first 36 accession months of service to the Pennsylvania National Guard;
 - 2) For a master's degree - \$750 per month for no more than 48 months or the first 36 accession months of service to the Pennsylvania National Guard; and
 - 3) For a bachelor's degree - \$500 per month for no more than 48 months or the first 36 accession months of service to the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- Adds the "Pennsylvania Air National Guard State Air Surgeons" as an area of concentration;
 - Excludes officers assigned to administrative, planning or logistical concentrations from eligibility for the program;
 - Adds the following eligibility requirements:
 - 1) Meet federal and state licensing requirements to practice within the officer's medical specialty within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
 - 2) Meet any applicable federal requirements for the Pennsylvania National Guard; and
 - 3) Maintain clinical privileges as awarded at the National Guard level by the Centralized Credentials and Privileges Board (C2P2).
 - Replaces a reference to "medicine residency" with "medical residency."
 - Replaces a gender reference; and
 - Authorizes the Adjutant General to adjust the stipend amounts beginning January 1, 2024, and every five years, rather than the current two years, in an amount equal to the change in the applicable Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the preceding five years provided there is sufficient funding. The Adjutant General is to publish any change in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs, this legislation enhances the current program and makes technical changes to the program, and enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.