

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 245

**PRINTER'S NO.** 210

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 31, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Argall

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 245 amends Section 437 of the Human Services Code relating to reports to the General Assembly.

The bill requires that the Department of Human Services (DHS) issue an annual report to the Chairs and Minority Chairs of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Human Services Committee that includes the following information:

- Details on information relating to the changes in how lottery winnings are counted for all forms of cash assistance, including the following:
  - Details on how many applicants reported lottery winnings of six hundred (\$600) or more;
  - Details on how many of those applicants were denied assistance due to lottery winnings of six hundred dollars (\$600) or more;
  - Details on any potential gaps in communication encountered between DHS and county assistance offices which may have resulted in the failed reporting of winnings of six hundred dollars (\$600) or more; and
  - Details regarding ongoing strategies between DHS and the Pennsylvania State Lottery in carrying out the program.
- Details on how many vehicles were exempted in total because of the provisions covered under this article;
- Details on the average equity value of vehicles counted as resources for all recipients;
- Details on information regarding replacement access devices, including the following:
  - Details on how many recipients requested a replacement access device;
  - Details on how many additional access devices were issued;
  - Details on how many times the fee for replacement access devices was overridden; and

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- Details on how many recipients were reported to the Office of Inspector General for requesting two or more replacement access devices in a calendar year.
- Details on how many instances recipients attempted to make purchases or withdraw funds in violation;
- Details highlighting any changes in reports from previous years; and
- Any recommendations that DHS wants to make to the General Assembly to improve carrying out this article.

This act shall take effect 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 245 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. The Department of Human Services is able to accommodate issuing the annual report within its existing budget and staffing levels.