

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 689

**PRINTER NO.** 713

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 5, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Yaw

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 689 amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act to create a continuous maintenance permit.

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (department) to develop a permit for which PennDOT or municipalities may apply. The permit shall allow permittees to maintain, inspect and monitor watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments as specified within the permit.

The department shall approve an application for a permit if the applicant has no history of significant permit violations and the applicant takes an affirmative duty over the watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments delineated in the application, and the permit shall be effective for no less than 10 years. If no permit violation has occurred during that time, the permit shall be extended for an additional 10 years. A permittee may not be required to seek pre-approval from the department for maintenance conducted under the permit, and any maintenance shall not be considered a permit violation. The permittee shall provide a report to the department by January 15 of each year that compiles all projects undertaken in the previous year.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 689 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Any administrative or operating costs can be accomplished within the department's current funding levels related to the pilot program addressing stream maintenance and other stormwater and floodplain management programs.