

FISCAL NOTE

October 29, 2019

Bill No:	HB 1459	Printer's No:	2569	Sponsor:	Schlossberg, Mike
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2019-20	2020-21
GGO & EMS	\$439,000	\$382,000

SUMMARY: House Bill 1459 amends Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 75 (Vehicles), of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes for the purpose of providing for emergency responder mental health and stress management and establishes the Statewide Critical Incident Stress Management Program which will be administered by the Department of Health.

ANALYSIS: HB 1459 adds a chapter entitled, "Emergency Responder Mental Wellness and Stress Management" which, among other things, outlines program protocols, peer-to-peer support programs, a toll-free helpline, awareness and impact training, as well as funding requirements. The bill further adds Correction Officer to the definition of an emergency responder.

The compliance standards established in Section 75A02(b) will take effect in 180 days of enactment. The remainder of this act will take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill requires the Department of Health to expend annually an amount not to exceed \$250,000 from the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund. Out of that expenditure, only 75% may be used solely to carry out the emergency responder mental wellness and stress management program.

Funding generated for this Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund will come from traffic violations (an increase from \$10 to \$20) and ARD/defendant costs (an increase from \$25 to \$50) which must be forwarded to the State Treasurer for deposit in the fund.

The Department of Health is anticipating needing an additional full-time employee within the Bureau of EMS. The helpline and infrastructure needs will require significant resources.

COSTS	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Personnel:		
EMS Program Specialist (Includes salary and benefits)	\$106,000	\$106,000
Infrastructure:	\$333,000	\$276,000
TOTAL	\$439,000	\$382,000