

FISCAL NOTE

June 10, 2019

Bill No:	SB 116	Printer's No:	84	Sponsor:	Bartolotta (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$1.3 million to \$1.5 million

SUMMARY: This bill amends Article VIII of the Pennsylvania Constitution providing for spending limitations.

ANALYSIS: SB 116 adds a section to the Pennsylvania Constitution requiring that total spending by the commonwealth in a fiscal year shall not exceed the spending appropriation limit established in the bill.

The spending appropriation limit shall be equal to total appropriations made during the immediately prior fiscal year, adjusted by the lesser of:

- The average percentage change in personal income in the state for the three preceding years, or
- The average percentage change in inflation for the three preceding years plus the average percentage change in the state population for the three preceding years.

The spending appropriation limit may be exceeded for the following reasons:

- To respond to a declared emergency, or
- If the governor requests at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year and the General Assembly approves by a two-thirds affirmative vote.

FISCAL IMPACT: Constitutional amendments carry a cost of \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million in two consecutive legislative sessions to comply with the advertising requirements of Section 1, Article XI of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

This bill would also limit the ability of the executive and legislative branch in crafting a budget that meets the public safety, social/human services, educational, and environmental needs for the commonwealth by placing specific limitations on spending each fiscal year.