



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1099

PRINTERS NO. 1755

PRIME SPONSOR: Maher

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1099, Printer's Number 1755, establishes independent legal counsel for the Environmental Quality Board.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the Administrative Code of 1929 to direct the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to appoint independent legal counsel to the Environmental Quality Board. The independent counsel shall be compensated from the appropriation for the general government operations of the department and assist board members with any matter before it. The bill further provides that all communication between the independent counsel and a board member shall be considered subject to the attorney-client privilege consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: It is expected that any additional administrative costs would be covered under the department's existing operations. The department reports it would cost approximately \$36,000 annually to hire counsel from a private law firm to review potential rulemakings and provide legal advice to members and the board.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 10, 2015

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.