



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 269

PRINTER'S NO. 2187

PRIME SPONSOR: Webster

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

The legislation requires counties to record all final discharges of all officers and soldiers discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and extends the time period when the records of discharge or separation may not be disclosed to 85 years.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 269 Printer's Number 1300 consolidates and updates Act 37 of 1868 into a new chapter in Title 16 (Counties). The legislation lengthens the required time that county recorders of deeds may not disclose veterans' records of discharge, reports of separation, or other similar documents to 85 years from 75 years. Records would continue to be available to the individual who is the subject of the records, the individual's immediate family, an authorized representative, a court, the county director of veterans affairs, or any department or agency of the Pennsylvania or U.S. government. The legislation also removes the provisions permitting county recorders of deeds to collect a \$0.50 fee, payable to the county, for each discharge recorded.

The legislation also expands the definition of "discharge" to include all individuals discharged under conditions other than dishonorable (Title 51 (Military Affairs), Section 104 (Character of Discharge)) from all honorable discharges.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on commonwealth funds. It is likely that the legislation will lead to a decrease in fees collected by county recorder of deeds due to the elimination of the \$0.50 fee. Any reduction in fee collections would be dependent on the number of discharges recorded and whether the recorder of deeds originally collected the fee.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: October 9, 2024

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