

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 129

PRINTER NO. 78

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 22, 2025

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mastriano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 129 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) by updating the State Veterans' Homes Advisory Councils.

This legislation amends Section 704 (relating to advisory councils for veterans' homes) to provide stakeholders with a means to advise the Adjutant General on the resident care, management, operations, and compliance of facilities and services in veterans' homes to ensure high-quality health care and well-being for residents of veterans' homes.

Each advisory council shall consist of 15 members and the Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's designee. The members shall consist of the following:

- Ten appointed by the Governor, all of whom shall be members of the local community of the veterans' homes and shall serve a term of three years;
- Three appointed by the Governor, from nominations submitted by current residents of the veterans' home and their family members, including at least one family member of a current or former resident;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore; and
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (department) shall designate a subject matter expert to attend each advisory council's meeting to provide input on the resident care, management, operations, and compliance of facilities and services.

Eight members of a council shall constitute a quorum, and each advisory council shall conduct meetings in compliance with open meeting requirements in Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

Each advisory council shall submit an annual report to the department. The department shall submit a consolidated report annually to each of the chairs and minority chairs of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees of

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the Senate and House of Representatives no later than January 30, 2026, and each year thereafter.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Any costs related to the operation of the advisory council and preparation and submission of the annual report are capable of being accommodated within the department's current workload and budget.