



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL: 958

PRINTER'S NO: 1161

PRIME SPONSOR: Scarnati

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Ward Township, Tioga County	See Analysis	See Analysis

OVERVIEW:

Senate Bill 958 authorizes the turn back from the Commonwealth to Ward Township, Tioga County, of the road known as the Old Possessions Road in Ward Township, Tioga County. The bill also provides for the powers and duties of the Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 958 authorizes that the road known as Old Possessions Road in Ward Township, Tioga County, extending from Mountain Ridge Road to River Road, having a length of 3.8 miles, be turned back from the Commonwealth to Ward Township.

The road is currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Funding for the maintenance of this road is currently provided from the Dirt and Gravel Roads or the State Forests Operations appropriations. According to DCNR, the turn back of this road to Ward Township will result in minimal cost savings to Commonwealth funds.

In order for the turn back of the road to take effect, the governing body of Ward Township, Tioga County, must, by ordinance or resolution, approve the turn back and agree to assume the expense of maintenance and improvement of the road. Upon publication of the ordinance or resolution, the Secretary of DCNR will release the roadway to the township.

According to Ward Township, Tioga County, minimal costs are expected as a result of this legislation. The road is gravel and, in terms of maintenance, would only require grading twice a year and snow removal. The township currently provides snow removal service on half of the road with permission from DCNR.

According to data from the Department of Transportation, Ward Township received \$46,542.16 in FY 2008/09 in distributions from the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law (June 1, 1956, 1955 P.L. 1944, No. 655), which it may use toward maintenance of roads. The amount includes \$1,069.19 in Ward Township's share of State Police Fines distributed pursuant to §3573(b)(3) of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), Pa.C.S. The distribution formula shows a township population of 128 and local road mileage of 19.7.

The bill also provides that in the event the township vacates the roadway, the status of the roadway shall be automatically reinstated and the road shall be turned back from Ward Township, Tioga County, to the Commonwealth.

The following sources were used in the preparation of this fiscal note: the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation, and Ward Township, Tioga County.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: July 15, 2009

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*