



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 941

PRINTERS NO. 2419

PRIME SPONSOR: Corman

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 941 amends the Crimes Code concerning public drunkenness and similar misconduct, and purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages. It would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation increases the maximum possible fines for public drunkenness and similar misconduct, and the purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages by minors.

Fines for public drunkenness increase from up to \$300 for any first or subsequent offense to no more than \$500 for a first offense and no more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

Fines for purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of alcoholic beverages by minors increase from up to \$500 for a second or subsequent offense to up to \$1,000 for any offense, first, second, or subsequent.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. However, it is estimated it would result in an additional \$6 million to funds of the municipalities where these particular offenses are committed. According to calendar year 2011 data from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, there were 27,309 convictions for public drunkenness and similar conduct, of which 4,584 resulted in the maximum fine being assessed by the courts and 13,959 convictions for the purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages by minors, of which 4,117 resulted in the maximum fine being assessed by the courts. This \$6 million estimate assumes that a similar number of convictions will receive the maximum possible fine in the first year after enactment of this legislation as received it under current law. In the case of public drunkenness, it also assumes that every individual receiving the maximum fine under current law was on a second or subsequent offense, which cannot be determined since current law does not distinguish amongst first and subsequent offenses.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 17, 2012

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