

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1225

**PRINTER'S NO.** 1832

**AMOUNT**

\$70,000 Potential Savings FY 2014-15

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

April 22, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Ross

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to LOCAL GOVERNMENT, April 22, 2013  
Reported as amended, May 15, 2013  
First consideration, May 15, 2013  
Laid on the table, May 15, 2013  
Removed from table, June 3, 2013  
Second consideration, June 4, 2013  
Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, June 4, 2013  
Re-reported as committed, June 5, 2013  
Third consideration and final passage, June 5, 2013 (193-0)

In the Senate

Referred to LOCAL GOVERNMENT, June 7, 2013  
Reported as committed, June 18, 2013  
First consideration, June 18, 2013  
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 24, 2013  
Re-reported as committed, Nov. 18, 2013

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 1225 amends Title 45 (Legal Notices) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by providing for the electronic publication of municipal codes.

The legislation adds new subchapter C to Chapter 7 of Title 45, which would authorize the Local Government Commission ("commission" or "LGC"), in addition to or in lieu of printed publication and distribution, to publish, maintain and update electronic copies of the following municipal codes:

1. The Third Class City Code
2. The First Class Township Code

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3. The Second Class Township Code
4. The County Code
5. The Borough Code

Municipal codes electronically published shall be available on an Internet website maintained by the Local Government Commission in a secure format accessible to the public and shall be updated within 60 days of the enactment of any amendment.

A repeal of section 2.1 of the Local Government Commission Law is also made insofar as it is inconsistent with the addition of the new subchapter.

The act shall take effect November 30, 2014.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 1225 will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. The legislation may reduce the costs of the Local Government Commission if the commission ceases the physical printing and distribution of municipal codes to local governments and moves to electronic publication, maintenance and updating exclusively.

Commission costs relating to the publication, printing and distribution of municipal codes varies depending upon whether the LGC must print an entire municipal code or just supplements to those codes. For example, at the end of the 2011-2012 legislative session, the commission expended \$15,471 for the printing and mailing of four supplements. At the end of the current legislative session, the commission expects that it may incur costs of nearly \$68,000, mainly due to the presumed recodifications of the Borough Code and the Third Class City Code.

If members of the Local Government Commission exercise their option under House Bill 1225 to move to electronic publication, at least \$70,000 in savings would be realized following the current legislative session, which amount includes additional costs to lease warehouse space for the storage of publications. Furthermore, the Local Government Commission already publishes the municipal codes and supplements on its Internet website, and so no additional costs should be incurred as a result of moving to the electronic publication option.