

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2049

PRINTER NO. 3127

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 2, 2018

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Moul

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2049 creates the Assistance and Service Animal Integrity Act to provide for documentation requirements for service and assistance animals in housing and to establish penalties for misrepresentation.

This legislation provides a definition for “assistance animal” and “service animal” as defined by federal law, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act or local law.

Documentation of a person’s disability or disability-related need for an animal may be requested if the disability or need is not clear or known to the landlord or the executive board of the association. The documentation must be in writing, be reliable, and describe the need for the animal.

House Bill 2049 provides that the landlord or association is not liable for injuries caused by an assistance or service animal.

The legislation imposes a penalty for misrepresentations of entitlement to an assistance or service animal in housing of a third degree misdemeanor. The penalty for the misrepresentation of an animal as an assistance or service animal for use in housing is a summary offense with a fine of not more than \$1,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fines paid to the Commonwealth are dependent on the number of convictions. Because Pennsylvania has no other criminal penalties for the misrepresentation of an assistance or service animal, it cannot be estimated how many convictions may occur.