

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 585

PRINTER NO. 653

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 29, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Corman

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 585 amends Title 3 (Agriculture) by adding a new Chapter 9 (Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission) to establish the Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission to review and make recommendations to promote and strengthen the Commonwealth's dairy industry.

The legislation provides the commission with the following powers and duties:

- Review, make findings and offer recommendations related to the dairy industry in the Commonwealth;
- Consult with and utilize experts to assist the commission in carrying out its duties;
- Receive input from interested parties;
- Hold public hearings in different regions of the Commonwealth;
- Review and consider dairy policies and factors utilized throughout the United States;
- Review the administration and operation of state and regional programs and services and make recommendations to implement new policies, legislation and regulations;
- Draft proposed legislation based on the commission's findings; and
- Issue a report of the commission's findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislative leaders not later than one year after the effective date of the legislation.

The legislation provides for the commission to be comprised of 23 members including: a gubernatorial appointment, cabinet secretaries, legislative appointments, the Chairperson and Minority Chairperson of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives, a representative of the Center for Dairy Excellence, a representative of the Milk Marketing Board, a representative of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a representative of Penn State University with expertise in the dairy industry and a representative of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau with expertise in the dairy industry.

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The legislation provides for the commission to appoint a member to serve as its chairperson, hold its first meeting within 45 days of the effective date of the legislation and for its meetings to be held at the call of the chairperson. It also provides that commission members may not receive compensation for service but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The legislation requires the Department of Agriculture to provide administrative support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the commission to carry out its duties. It also requires the department to provide the commission with data, research and other information upon request of the commission.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 585 is estimated cost the Commonwealth \$49,000 for travel and other reasonable expenses for the 23 members of the commission to attend six meetings. The requirements of the Department of Agriculture to provide administrative support, meeting space, data, research and other assistance to the commission should be pose a minimal cost. All of these costs can be accomplished within the department's existing operating budget as these functions are routine to its operations and its expertise. The FY 2018-19 General Fund budget includes \$32,299,000 for the department's General Government Operations.