

FISCAL NOTE

August 23, 2017

Bill No:	HB 824	Printer's No:	902	Sponsor:	Saylor (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
General Fund	\$1,000,000	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

SUMMARY: This bill would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) to establish the National Guard Youth Challenge Program within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

ANALYSIS: House Bill 824 would require DMVA to establish a youth challenge program consistent with the Federal National Guard Youth Challenge Program of opportunities for civilian youth. The program would be referred to as the Keystone State Challenge Academy and would be established to the extent funds are appropriated. The program would consist of a 22-week residential program and a 12-month post-residential mentoring period, consistent with the Federal program. Participation requirements would be prescribed by the United States Department of Defense (DOD) and would be staffed by the administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees necessary for the operation of the program.

DMVA would be required to apply for funding, as provided under Federal law pertaining to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program of opportunities for civilian youth. However, DMVA would be permitted to supplement funding with other resources, including gifts, made available to DMVA and may also accept, use and dispose of gifts or donations of money other property or services for the program.

Additionally, an advisory council would be established for the program consisting of the Adjutant General (a non-voting member), as well as a total of nine members, three of which would be appointed by the Governor, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each member would serve for the duration of the term of the appointing authority and would be prohibited from receiving compensation for their services, other than the reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses for attendance at the meetings.

DMVA would be required to annually submit to the Majority and Minority Chairperson of the Education and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of both the House and Senate a report concerning the program. The report would include some of the following:

- The number of individuals who applied and participated in the program in the previous fiscal year.
- The number and percentage of program participants in the previous year who earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

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- The number of participants who enrolled in an institution of higher education.
- The number of participants who received full-time or part-time employment.
- The number of participants who entered the United States Armed Forces.

DMVA would also be required to annually submit to the Majority and Minority Chairperson of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee a complete certified audit of the program. The audit would be conducted by a qualified independent certified public accountant under generally accepted audit standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

This act would be effective immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: This program would be contingent upon appropriated funding. DMVA would incur a total cost of \$5,000,000 (\$1,000,000 in state funds and \$4,000,000 in federal funds) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18. The first-year of funding would be used for infrastructure and planning to begin implementation of the Keystone State Challenge Academy Program, as established under this act. In the out-years, the amount of federal assistance would be based on a 75 percent federal match, with the commonwealth responsible for 25 percent of the costs of the program. The out-year costs would be projected based on fiscal estimates available after the planning stages of the program.