

FISCAL NOTE

April 19, 2019

Bill No:	SB 108	Printer's No:	80	Sponsor:	Yaw (R)
-----------------	--------	----------------------	----	-----------------	---------

COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000
Motor License Fund	\$150,000	(\$150,000)
Keystone Tree Fund	Revenue TBD	\$150,000

SUMMARY: This bill creates the Keystone Tree Fund and provides for a checkbox option on license and vehicle registration renewal applications for a voluntary \$3 contribution to the fund. The bill mandates that 40 percent of the fund be expended for a tree vitalization program and the remaining 60 percent be expended for a forest buffer grant program. The fund is housed under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

ANALYSIS: SB 108 establishes the Keystone Tree Fund under DCNR. 40 percent of the money in the fund is reserved for a tree vitalization program, while 60 percent will be used for a riparian forest buffer grant program. Both programs are intended to expand tree canopy coverage and help Pennsylvania meet its goals related to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. HB 374 provides that electronic applications for a renewal of a driver's license or identification card, and electronic applications for renewal of a vehicle registration contain an optional \$3 contribution to the Keystone Tree Fund. The bill mandates that the Keystone Tree Fund reimburse the Motor License Fund for any costs they incur due to system changes to allow for these voluntary contributions.

The bill also stipulates that the Keystone Tree Fund may receive grants or donations from private individuals or any government entity, and that DCNR may solicit said contributions. DCNR is required to adopt a statement of policy for the fund within 60 days and submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing fund revenues and expenditures with relevant explanations.

SB 108 takes effect 30 days after passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: To administer the fund, DCNR would require two additional employees at an annual cost of \$200,000. PennDot would occur upfront costs for system changes to add the voluntary contribution checkbox but would be reimbursed from the Keystone Tree Fund for these costs.