

FISCAL NOTE

February 1, 2021

Bill No:	HB 142	Printer's No:	108	Sponsor:	Ortitay (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2020-21	2021-22
Judiciary- Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"
Agriculture- Dog Law Restricted Account	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

SUMMARY: HB 142 amends Title 42 to stipulate that no amount of fines, fees or penalties collected under the Dog Law shall be transferred to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account but rather must remain in the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Restricted Account.

ANALYSIS: Under current law, fines collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for violations under the Dog Law and, are excess of the amount collected in fiscal year 1986-1987 (Act 64), must be transferred to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account. This account within the Judiciary is used to operate state-wide court computer systems.

HB 142 adds a provision to Title 42 mandating that no funds collected under the Dog Law will be transferred to the Judiciary, but instead will be retained by the department and can be used for operational purposes.

HB 142 takes effect 60 days upon passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: Under current law, all Dog Law fines, fees, or penalties collected in excess of the base year cap amount of \$68,095.22, are statutorily required to be transferred to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account on an annual basis. HB 142 repeals that provision. If passed, the Department of Agriculture will be able to retain all fines, fees and penalties in it's Dog Law Restricted Account.

For example: In 2019, the Dog Law generated \$258,813.63 in fines and penalties. Under current law, the Dog Law Restricted Account only retains \$68,095.22. However, if HB142 is enacted the Dog Law Restricted Account would be able to retain the base year cap amount plus all fines and penalties resulting in a \$190,718.41 increase in the Dog Law Restricted Account and, ultimately, a \$190,718.41 reduction in the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account.

DOG LAW RESTRICTED ACCOUNT			
Year	Total Fines & Penalties	Base Year Cap Amount	Difference
2019	\$258,813.63	\$68,095.22	\$190,718.41