



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 797

PRINTER'S NO. 2002

PRIME SPONSOR: B. Miller

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** HB 797 PN 757 requires PennDOT to plant vegetation native to Pennsylvania along state routes. This legislation would take effect immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** The bill requires that PennDOT only plant along state routes vegetation identified as being native to Pennsylvania that will thrive in the plant hardiness zone and under the environmental conditions of the highway right-of-way.

Legislation was amended by the Senate on September 19, 2023, to make a technical change to the definition of "plant hardiness zone." The definition now includes any changes made to the plant hardiness zone map by the USDA, and then subsequently approved via regulation by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

PennDOT may authorize the use of nonnative vegetation where the use of native vegetation is not feasible, provided that the nonnative vegetation is not:

- A federally listed invasive plant identified by the United States Department of Agriculture National Invasive Species Information Center; or
- A noxious weed or controlled plant, unless planted and cultivated pursuant to Chapter 15 (related to controlled plants and noxious weeds) of Title 3 (Agriculture).

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on commonwealth funds, as it simply provides for planting of native vegetation.

**PREPARED BY:** Gueorgui Tochev  
House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** June 25, 2024

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*