146TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	SENATE BILL NO. 30
SPONSOR:	Senator Sokola
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 13 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Effective January 1, 2012.

2. The Act creates a legal relationship of civil union for same sex couples in Delaware.

3. The fiscal note reflects an estimate of the cost of direct state employee benefits from the addition of partners and/or partners and children of partners to the group health plan.

4. An analysis by UCLA's Williams Institute attempting to estimate the impact on Delaware from a law recognizing civil unions including tax changes, tourism revenue, State employee benefits, public assistance and license fees concluded as follows:

Year	Number of Civil Unions	Net State Cost
1	450	$ 93,016
2	193	$459,796
3	152	$630,552

5. In order to minimize the number of assumptions and variables, this fiscal note will be confined to an estimation of the impact of recognizing civil unions on State employee benefit costs. Further, the non-state benefit effects estimated by the Williams Institute are small in comparison to the impact on state benefits.

6. The cost estimates below are based on the assumption that offering same sex domestic partner benefits (group health insurance) would increase claims cost by 0.3% (low) to 0.6% (high). The estimates are cumulative and all funds.

Cost:	Low		High	
FY 2012	$115,000	to	$225,000	(Partial Year)
FY 2013	$340,000	to	$670,000	
FY 2014	$420,000	to	$840,000	

Office of Controller General (Amounts are shown in whole dollars)
March 28, 2011
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