



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 260

PRINTERS NO. 1220

PRIME SPONSOR: Ward

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | See fiscal impact | See fiscal impact |

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 260, printer's number 1220, amends the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L. 882, No. 111), known as the Crime Victims Act, to further provide for the Victims' Services Advisory Committee.

The effective date is 60 days after enactment.

ANALYSIS: The bill amends Section 321(b) and (c) of the Crime Victims Act to modify the composition of the Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC). Currently, the VSAC is comprised of the Secretaries of Aging, Corrections, and Public Welfare, or their designees, and the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, the Victim Advocate and a District Attorney appointed by the Governor. In addition to these members, the Governor appoints nine (9) "general class" members who represent direct victims, the courts, or victims' organizations. The bill makes a technical change by replacing the "Secretary of Public Welfare" with "Secretary of Human Services;" and provides the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police with the right to send a designee to VSAC meetings as the other agency Secretaries on the VSAC have.

The bill also replaces the nine "general class" members with nineteen appointees of the Governor that represent specific victims or entities. The new appointees shall be or represent one of the following:

- 1) A direct victim of crime representing female victims;
- 2) A direct victim of crime representing male victims;
- 3) An area agency on aging;
- 4) The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- 5) The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape;
- 6) The Pennsylvania Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams;
- 7) The Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates Association;
- 8) A county children and youth agency;
- 9) A prosecution-based victim witness program;
- 10) A victims' service or advocacy organization;
- 11) The courts;

- 12) County government;
- 13) The executive director of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission;
- 14) A children's advocacy center or victims' services agency working directly with children;
- 15) Local law enforcement;
- 16) A mental health treatment provider or mental health advocate;
- 17) A disabilities treatment provider or disabilities advocate;
- 18) A victims' services agency working directly with victims of human trafficking; and
- 19) A comprehensive victim service agency.

The agency heads and Victim Advocate shall serve ex officio, while the remaining members of the VSAC shall serve for a four-year term and may be appointed for no more than one additional consecutive term.

Section 321(g) of the Crime Victims Act provides that the VSAC shall meet at the call of the chair but no fewer than four times a year.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Crime Victims Act provides for staff support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Office of Victims' Services to the VSAC in order to adequately perform their duties, and provides that committee members shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions as imposed on PCCD members under Section 2 of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law (Act 1978-274). Section 2 establishes a compensation rate of \$75 a day for attendance at official meetings for members who are not Commonwealth officers or State, county, or municipal employees. Reasonable expenses incurred by members shall be allowed and paid upon the presentation of itemized vouchers.

The enactment of this legislation is expected to result in additional compensation and reimbursement costs of less than \$7,500 annually (assumes four meetings per year); therefore the additional costs associated with this legislation are de minimis and can be accommodated within current Commission funding.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 16, 2017

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