



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 917

PRINTER'S NO. 1151

PRIME SPONSOR: Shusterman

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	No Fiscal Impact	No Fiscal Impact

### SUMMARY:

Establishes the Pennsylvania Family Law Arbitration Act (PFLAA).

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 917 Printer's Number 1151 establishes a family law arbitration process in the Judicial Code (Title 42, Chapter 42, Subchapter D). Arbitration under the bill will be a voluntary, private process that parties may use to resolve a dispute rather than going to court. During arbitration, a neutral third party, the arbitrator, hears arguments from the parties, evaluates evidence, and makes a decision on their dispute.

The arbitration process is paid for by the parties involved in the arbitration. Unless the parties involved in the arbitration otherwise agree in a record, the arbitrator, among their powers and duties, has the power to allocate arbitration fees, attorney fees, expert witness fees, and other costs to the parties. The arbitrator is required to disclose and provide in writing to the parties their initial fee, their hourly rate, and the process for invoices and payment for their services.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The arbitration is paid for by the parties involved in the arbitration. Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Bradley Keen  
House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** May 16, 2023

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