

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1731

PRINTER NO. 2953

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

July 20, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Mizgorski

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1731 directs the Joint State Government Commission (“commission”) to establish the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement within the commission.

The Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement (“committee”) will consist of at least 13 members, and all members shall be appointed by the commission. Committee members shall demonstrate expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Adoption and foster care;
- Adult education or literacy;
- Behavioral health;
- Early childhood development;
- Education;
- Employment and workforce development;
- Family law and child custody;
- Fatherhood programs or initiatives;
- Housing and independent living;
- Parenting and co-parenting;
- Public safety and corrections;
- Juvenile dependency and delinquency systems; or
- The Department of Health.

The committee shall designate one person as the chair and may designate other officers, as necessary. Members will not be paid but may be reimbursed for expenses.

The committee shall identify barriers faced by fathers in their efforts to maintain a sustained, purposeful and positive involvement in the lives of their children. It will then make recommendations to remove those barriers. The committee shall:

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- Work with state government, local governments and other entities to recognize and promote the role that fathers play in improving societal outcomes for both children and families;
- Evaluate government programs that affect fatherhood and make recommendations for any improvements to those programs and the removal of impediments to their successful implementation;
- Develop a comprehensive plan that will support life-long connections between fathers and their children;
- Promote and support workforce development, parenting and conflict resolution programs for fathers;
- Propose changes to statutes, regulations, rules and polices that prevent greater fatherhood involvement measures;
- Identify additional sources of funds to support the work of the committee, as well as fatherhood programs; and
- Make recommendations regarding the establishment of a long-term or permanent Fatherhood Commission.

The committee shall issue a report on fatherhood programs and issues relating to fatherhood in the Commonwealth to the Governor and General Assembly. The report will make recommendations to aid in the successful implementation of these programs. The report must be issued by December 31, 2023.

The committee shall terminate on January 31, 2024, or one month after the report is due. This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Joint State Government Commission estimates that a committee costs an average of \$3,000, which can be accommodated with existing funding. This estimate includes:

- Advisory committee members' travel to and from each meeting (six meetings in a twelve-month period), reimbursement for parking, in-state mileage (at the IRS rate) and in-state tolls; and
- Production of a final report.