



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

## FISCAL NOTE

**HOUSE BILL: 295**

**PRINTER'S NO: 318**

**PRIME SPONSOR: Briggs**

<b>FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY</b>	<b>FY 2008/09</b>	<b>FY 2009/10</b>
<b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0

### OVERVIEW:

House Bill 295 amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) by adding Section 5316 providing for sibling visitation if a child has been adopted by a stepparent or grandparent.

Upon petition of a sibling or child, the court may grant reasonable visitation rights if it determines that:

1. Continuing contact between the petitioner and child is in the child's best interests.
2. Visitation is in the petitioner's best interest if the petitioner is a child.
3. Visitation would not interfere with the parent-child relationship.

In addition, while determining the best interests of the child, the court shall consider at a minimum:

1. The relationship between the child and petitioner, including the amount of personal contact prior to filing the petition.
2. The relationship among the petitioner and other individuals with whom the child resides.

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

### ANALYSIS:

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts does not foresee a large increase in cases or discernable costs related to this legislation. Therefore, the enactment of House Bill 295 is not expected to have a negative fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

**DATE:** March 11, 2009

**General Note and Disclaimer:** *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*