



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**  
2009-10 Legislative Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

**SENATE BILL: 383**

**PRINTER'S NO: 381**

**PRIME SPONSOR: Oriole**

As amended by A05471

| <b>FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY</b>            | <b>FY 2009/10</b> | <b>FY 2010/11</b> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b> |                   |                   |
| General Fund                            | *See Analysis     | *See Analysis     |

**OVERVIEW:**

Senate Bill 383, as amended by A05471, amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judiciary Procedure) by providing that the Court of Common Pleas of a judicial district and the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish problem solving courts.

This legislation also provides that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court may appoint a statewide problem solving court coordinator and may establish an interdisciplinary and inter-branch advisory committee.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:**

Because Senate Bill 383 does not mandate the establishment of problem solving courts, the appointment of a statewide coordinator, or the establishment of an advisory committee, it is possible that there would be no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth and county funds.

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), this bill basically codifies current practice as there were 51 problem solving courts in Pennsylvania as of January 9, 2008. AOPC indicates that costs associated with the establishment of problem solving courts impact counties where diversionary treatment programs exist to treat individuals participating in problem solving courts. Where county costs may increase with the need to provide treatment programs, both county and Commonwealth jail and prison costs may decrease as a result of fewer inmates. Under this legislation, problem solving courts would be established from available funds.

Should the Supreme Court appoint a statewide coordinator and establish an advisory committee on problem solving courts, costs can be expected but are not quantifiable at this time and would be contingent upon available funds.

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**DATE:** January 25, 2010

**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.*