



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL: 383

PRINTER'S NO: 1954

PRIME SPONSOR: Oriole

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

OVERVIEW:

Senate Bill 383 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 interbranch 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 is aligned with 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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