



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1841

PRINTERS NO. 3198

PRIME SPONSOR: Toohil

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact Below

SUMMARY: House Bill 1841 amends the Crimes Code concerning false reports to law enforcement authorities. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: Under current law, making a false report to a law enforcement authority is considered a misdemeanor offense, the degree of which would vary depending on the circumstances of the false report. This legislation increases that grading to a felony of the third degree if the false report relates to a felony criminal investigation involving a minor child and the person making the false report meets the definition of "parent" as contained in the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have a minimal impact on Commonwealth funds. According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, in 2010, the most recent year for which data is available, 258 people were convicted of making a false report to law enforcement authorities under circumstances in which this legislation could apply. Reliable data do not exist to determine how many of these convictions may have been impacted by this legislation, thus increasing the offense grading from a misdemeanor to a third degree felony. This would increase the likelihood the individual would be sentenced to state prison. According to the Department of Corrections, potential population increases of this magnitude would have a minimal impact on Department expenditures, which could be handled within current and projected budget amounts.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 13, 2012

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