



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 431

PRINTERS NO. 3179

PRIME SPONSOR: Gingrich

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 431, Printer's Number 3179, amends the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to require child abuse recognition and reporting training for following mandated reporters of suspected child abuse: professional licensees; operators of institutions, facilities or agencies which care for children and are licensed or supervised by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and their employees who have direct contact with children; foster parents; and caregivers in family day care homes that are subject to registration by DPW. This legislation is effective December 31, 2014.

ANALYSIS: This legislation requires any licensing board with jurisdiction over professional licensees identified as mandated reporters to require all license/certification applicants to submit documentation of at least three hours of approved child abuse recognition and reporting training. Further, for all license/certification renewals, professionals must submit documentation of at least two hours of continuing education of approved child abuse recognition and reporting training per licensing cycle. The two hours of continuing education will count as a portion of the total continuing education required for licensure renewal. The licensing board may exempt an applicant or licensee from these requirements if adequate documentation is provided that the professional has already completed child abuse recognition training; the training was required by the Public School Code or the Public Welfare Code; and the amount of training received equals or exceeds the amount of training or continuing education required in the bill.

This legislation also requires child abuse recognition and reporting training for operators and employees, subject to licensure or supervision by DPW, who have direct contact with children, foster parents and caregivers in family day care homes that are subject to regulation by DPW. Within six months of the effective date, operators and caregivers are required to receive three hours of training prior to the issuance of a license or approval and three hours of training every five years thereafter. Employees who have direct contact with children and foster parents must obtain three hours of training within six months of the issuance of a license and three hours every five years thereafter. New employees and new foster parents must receive three hours of training within ninety days of hire or approval as a foster parent and three hours of training

every five years thereafter. A person may be exempted from these requirements if adequate documentation is provided that the person has already completed child abuse recognition training; the training was required by the Public School Code or the Public Welfare Code; and the amount of training received equals or exceeds the amount of training required by the bill.

The training curriculum must be approved by DPW and will include, but not be limited to, recognition of the signs of abuse and reporting requirements for suspected abuse in Pennsylvania.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of the legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. The Child Protective Services Law requires the Department of State to make educational and training programs and materials available for all licensing boards whose licensees are charged with reporting suspected child abuse. The Department of State may incur some administrative expenses to perform these duties, which will be covered under existing operations. The Department of Public Welfare may also incur some administrative expenses to perform these duties, which will be covered under existing operations.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 2, 2014

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