



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1163

PRINTERS NO. 3273

PRIME SPONSOR: Marsico

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: House Bill 1163 amends the Crimes Code concerning harassment. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1163 creates the offense of cyber harassment of a child within the Crimes Code section on harassment. A person commits the crime of cyber harassment of a child if, with intent to harass, the person engages in a continuing course of conduct by repeatedly communicating or making available through an electronic social media service, certain information about a child under 18 years of age, whether true or not. This information would include statements or opinions about the child's sexuality or sexual activity; seriously disparaging statements or opinions about the child's physical characteristics, mental or physical health or condition; or threats to inflict unlawful harm.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. Cyber harassment of a child is graded as a misdemeanor of the third degree, punishable by a maximum \$2,500 fine and/or a maximum of one year in prison. As a result, the fiscal impact will fall on county jails or probation. The average cost for incarceration in a county jail is approximately \$70 per day, or \$25,615 per year. The average cost for supervising a county adult offender is \$860 per year.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 1, 2014

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