



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1201

PRINTERS NO. 1792

PRIME SPONSOR: Barbin

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1201 amends the Judicial Code concerning victims of sexual or physical abuse, and concerning the definition of "State Board." It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1201 amends the Judicial Code concerning child victims and witnesses, and reporting by district attorneys. The changes are detailed below.

Child Victims and Witnesses

This legislation concerns residents of this Commonwealth who are under 18 years of age when they are victims of physical or sexual abuse. Under this bill the names of such victims may not be disclosed by officers or employees of the court to the public, and any records revealing the name of the minor victim may not be open to public inspection. This applies to any prosecution involving a minor victim, regardless of the date of the commencement of the prosecution.

If the minor victim is 18 years of age or older at the time of the commencement of the prosecution, he or she may waive this prohibition and allow the court to release his or her name.

The court will develop procedures to implement the provisions of this subsection.

Reporting by District Attorneys

Under current law, district attorneys in Pennsylvania are required to notify a "state board" when a health care professional has been convicted of a felony. The definition of "state board" includes several departmental administrative boards within the Department of State, such as the Boards of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy. House Bill 1201 updates the names of some of these boards and adds others, such as the State Board of Social Workers and the State Board of Psychology. This updates the definition to reflect changes that have been made in law since this requirement was enacted in 1986.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 14, 2013

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