



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 30

PRINTERS NO. 1648

PRIME SPONSOR: Erickson

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 30, Printer's Number 1648, amends the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to expand the definition of child-care services, to establish a statewide database of protective services, to provide for expedited appeals of indicated child abuse reports and for amendment or expunction of information. This legislation is effective July 1, 2014, except for the definitional change which is effective December 31, 2014.

ANALYSIS: This legislation expands the definition of child-care services to include day care services or programs offered by a school. A statewide database of protective services is created to include the information currently provided in Section 6331 and is expanded to include false reports of child abuse pursuant to a conviction and invalid general protective services reports for the purpose of identifying and tracking patterns of intentionally false reports.

Section 6341 on the amendment or expunction of information is revised to require a timely hearing for a person making an administrative appeal of an indicated report of child abuse. The Bureau of Hearings and Appeals (BHA) must schedule a hearing within ten days of receipt of the appeal, make reasonable efforts to coordinate the hearing date with the appellee and appellant and enter a scheduling order and begin proceedings within 90 days unless all parties agree to a continuance. DPW or the county agency must provide all evidence gathered during the investigation no later than ten days after entering the scheduling order to the person making the appeal. The BHA decision must be entered, filed and served to the parties within 45 days, unless the tribunal extends the date but in no event shall the extension delay the entry of the decision by more than 60 days after conclusion of the proceeding or hearing. Parties have 15 calendar days from the mailing date of the final BHA order to request the Secretary to reconsider the decision or appeal to Commonwealth Court. Parties have 30 days to perfect an appeal to Commonwealth Court.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Bureau of Hearing and Appeals will incur costs of approximately \$800,000 for additional staff to expedite administrative appeals and \$200,000 for related court reporting costs. The Department will incur additional costs to establish and implement the database on July 1, 2014 but has not yet determined the specific amount needed.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 11, 2013

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