



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1276

PRINTERS NO. 1831

PRIME SPONSOR: Watson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 1276, Printer's Number 1831 amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to clarify the existing statute that requires employees and adult volunteers who work directly and routinely with children to obtain criminal background check clearances and child abuse clearances, and further delineates who is and who is not subject to those requirements. This legislation is effective immediately.

ANALYSIS: HB 1276 amends Chapter 63 (Child Protective Services Law) of Title 23 (Domestic Relations), Pa. C.S. to make the statute more explicit where necessary with regard to background check clearance requirements for employees and adult volunteers who have direct contact with children. The legislation more clearly defines who is subject to the requirements and makes those requirements less onerous in some instances. The legislation also makes several technical clarifications and changes in the interest of consistency and to better reflect the intent of the Legislature. This legislation also provides for free State Police and Department of Human Services (DHS) background check clearances for volunteers once every three years. The free clearance shall not be valid or used for any other purpose.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to information provided by the Governor's Budget Office, the elimination of fees for volunteers to obtain background checks will not require additional state funds to offset the loss of these fee revenues.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 17, 2015

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