



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1799

PRINTERS NO. 2759

PRIME SPONSOR: Hahn

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact" below.

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1799 amends the Judicial Code concerning life imprisonment for homicide. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation amends the Judicial Code concerning life imprisonment for homicide in two ways. First, it increases the penalty for murder of the third degree from a 20-year maximum to life in prison if the defendant has been previously convicted of either murder of an unborn child or voluntary manslaughter of an unborn child. This new enhancement also applies if the conviction was for an equivalent offense from another jurisdiction.

In addition, this bill would make the same life sentence enhancement apply to a conviction for third degree murder of an unborn child if the defendant has previously been convicted of murder, voluntary manslaughter, murder of an unborn child, or voluntary manslaughter of an unborn child.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to data compiled by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, there were 221 convictions for third degree murder in 2014 and 2 convictions for murder of an unborn child and voluntary manslaughter of an unborn child. However, in none of these cases did the offender have a previous conviction that would have triggered the life imprisonment enhancement contained in this legislation, had it been in effect. Therefore, it is estimated this legislation would have only a minimal impact on the Department of Corrections' inmate population.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 24, 2016

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