



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 149

PRINTERS NO. 4251

PRIME SPONSOR: Knowles

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 149, Printer's Number 4251 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) by establishing the unlawful use of an audio or video device in court.

ANALYSIS:

The Crimes Code is amended by adding a new Section 5103.1 (Unlawful use of an audio or video device in court), prohibiting the unauthorized use or operation of a device used to capture, record, transmit or broadcast a photograph, video, motion picture or audio of a proceeding within a judicial facility, or in an area adjacent to or immediately surrounding a judicial facility. The legislation defines "Judicial facility" for the purpose of this section.

This legislation will be effective in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation would have an unknown fiscal impact on Commonwealth or county funds. An individual who violates this new Section would commit a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable by up to 2 years in prison and/or a fine up to \$5,000. Second and subsequent violations of this offense would result in a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and/or a fine up to \$10,000. Limited data makes it difficult to determine how many individuals may be arrested, convicted and sentenced for this new offense.

PREPARED BY: Jenny P. Stratton
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 16, 2018

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