



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 44

PRINTERS NO. 2918

PRIME SPONSOR: Snyder

### COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND         | FY 2019/20        | FY 2020/21 |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| General Fund | See Fiscal Impact |            |

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 44 amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) concerning the investigation of the circumstances of an offense and corrections officer statement, testimony and participation in a hearing. It would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** Currently, Title 61 lists elements the PA Board of Probation and Parole must consider when making parole decisions. House Bill 44 would add the written statement or testimony of a corrections officer to this list.

House Bill 44 also adds a new section to Title 61 concerning corrections officers' statements, testimony, and participation in hearings. It provides that a corrections officer who has care, custody and control of an inmate under consideration for parole may provide a written statement to the board or testify to the board regarding the conduct of the inmate while in prison. Within 30 days of receiving notice that an inmate is being considered for parole, a corrections officer may submit a written statement or notify the Board of the officer's intent to testify in person. A corrections officer who provides a written statement or testifies to the Board must do so as a part of that officer's regular employment and will be compensated at the same rate that the officer would be compensated for conducting the officer's regular duties.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation could have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. According to the Department of Corrections, there are approximately 20,000 parole hearings per year. It is not possible to estimate how many officers would choose to testify under this legislation, so the extent of any fiscal impact cannot be estimated at this time.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** December 18, 2019

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