



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 856

PRINTERS NO. 1333

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 856, Printer's Number 1333, amends Title 67 (Public Welfare) to reinstate adoption and permanent legal custodian subsidies. This legislation is effective immediately and Chapters 21 and 31 are effective retroactive to July 18, 2018.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Title 67 (Public Welfare) by adding Chapter 21 and Chapter 31 which provide for adoption subsidies via the following programs:

- Chapter 21 - Adoption Opportunities
 - Promotes the placement in adoptive homes of children with disabilities, or who are hard to place due to age, sibling relationship or ethnicity.
- Chapter 31 - Family Finding and Kinship Care
 - Provides for relative notification when a child is removed from a home, options for participation in care and placement, and information on requirements to become a foster parent, legal custodian or adoptive parent.
 - Establishes the Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodianship Program wherein the Department of Human Services (DHS) identifies eligible children/custodians and sets program procedures/reporting requirements.

These provisions were previously codified in the Human Services Code through Act 80 of 2012 which was struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as unconstitutional on July 18, 2018. Therefore, it is necessary to reinstate these provisions for the services to be eligible for federal Title IV-E funds.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds related to the passage of this legislation. The FY 2018-19 budget was enacted prior to the Supreme Court declaring Act 80 of 2012 unconstitutional, therefore, the state and federal appropriations for County Child Welfare include funding for these programs.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 30, 2019

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