



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 469

PRINTERS NO. 476

PRIME SPONSOR: Laughlin

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 469, Printer's Number 476 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), Chapter 59 (Depositions and Witnesses) by adding a new Subchapter E (Victims and Witnesses with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism) to assist victims and witnesses participate in court proceedings when the individual has intellectual disabilities or autism.

ANALYSIS:

SB 469 amends the Judicial Code, Chapter 59 (Depositions and Witnesses) by adding new Sections 5991 (Declaration of policy) and 5992 (Definitions) to provide for a statement of policy and the definitions of "Autism spectrum disorder" and an "Individual with an intellectual disability or autism." Section 5993 (Admissibility of certain statements) is added to provide that out-of-court statements by an individual with an intellectual disability or autism who is a victim or witness describing certain enumerated offenses may be admissible in any criminal or civil proceeding. The legislation allows the court to decide on the admissibility of out-of-court statements based on evidence presented that the in-court statements/testimony by the individual will result in serious emotional distress, impacting the individual's ability to reasonably communicate during the proceedings.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

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

DATE: June 18, 2019

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