



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 479

PRINTERS NO. 498

PRIME SPONSOR: Baker

COST / (SAVINGS)

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 479, Printer's Number 498 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) by further amending Section 5985.1 (Admissibility of certain statements) to further provide for the admittance of an out-of-court statement of a child or child witness as evidence in certain criminal or civil proceedings.

ANALYSIS:

SB 479 amends the Judicial Code to permit out-of-court statements of a child or child witness as evidence in certain criminal or civil proceedings. Under current law, out-of-court statements by a child victim or witness are currently permissible when describing the following offenses from Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses):

- Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide),
- Chapter 27 (relating to assault),
- Chapter 29 (relating to kidnapping),
- Chapter 31 (relating to sexual offenses),
- Chapter 35 (relating to burglary and other criminal intrusion); and
- Chapter 37 (relating to robbery).

SB 479 adds the following offenses:

- Chapter 30 (relating to human trafficking),
- Section 4302 (relating to incest),
- Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children) (if the offense involved sexual contact with victim),
- Section 6301 (a)(1)(ii) (relating to the corruption of minors),
- Section 6312 (b) (relating to sexual abuse of children),
- Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with minor); and
- Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children).

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.