



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 951

PRINTERS NO. 1158

PRIME SPONSOR: Rozzi

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 951 amends the Judicial Code concerning a temporary window to file claims and exceptions to sovereign and governmental immunity. It would take effect immediately.

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 951 amends the Judicial Code concerning a temporary window to file claims. It creates a two-year temporary window to file claims alleging childhood sexual abuse, even if the limitation period for that cause of action has expired. It also expressly states that the current waivers of sovereign and governmental immunity for childhood sexual abuse apply retroactively and prospectively; and any statutory limits or caps on damages that otherwise might apply to such cases are similarly waived retroactively.

This legislation grants the PA Supreme Court extraordinary jurisdiction to hear a constitutional challenge to the validity of the bill's provisions. The provisions of this legislation are also nonseverable. If any provision of the bill or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remaining provisions are also void.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation could have a fiscal impact on Commonwealth and local governments by exposing them to civil lawsuits concerning sexual abuse that are currently barred based on sovereign immunity. However, this would depend on the number of suits that result in damages and the size of any damage awards, which are impossible to estimate at this time.

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

**DATE:** April 7, 2021

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