



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 563

PRINTERS NO. 1588

PRIME SPONSOR: Laughlin

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends the Fire and Panic Act (Act 299 of 1927) to update the fire safety requirements in family child-care homes. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Section 3.6 of the Fire and Panic Act to require family child-care homes (in home childcare facilities, which provide childcare - at any one time - to four to six children who are unrelated to the operator) to meet the following fire safety standards:

- Smoke alarms must be present on each floor and in the basement (currently required in regulations). Smoke alarms must:
 - Be interconnected via hardwire, Bluetooth connectivity or any other means that allow for communication between devices (proof of purchase of interconnected smoke alarms is already required by law for these facilities, but this is new language in the Fire and Panic Act).
 - Be audible (when activated) to persons in the indoor child-care space with all intervening doors closed (currently required by law).
 - Be approved, at the time of installation, by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory recognized by OSHA (current law requires smoke alarms to meet “applicable UL standards”).
- The facility must have a portable fire extinguisher rated for class B fires in the kitchen and other cooking areas (currently required in regulations).
- The facility must meet the exiting requirements for an R-3 occupancy and licensure under 55 Pa. Code, Chapter 3290 (relating to family child day care homes) - (currently required in regulations).

Family child-care homes will have 12 months from the effective date or until the expiration of their current license, whichever is longer, to comply with the new requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 21, 2022

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