

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1281

PRINTER'S NO. 4021

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

April 20, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Gibbons

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to JUDICIARY, April 20, 2009
Reported as committed, May 12, 2009
First consideration, May 12, 2009
Laid on the table, May 12, 2009
Removed from table, May 13, 2009
Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, May 13, 2009
Re-reported as amended, June 16, 2009
Re-committed to JUDICIARY (Pursuant to Rule 71), July 9, 2009
Re-reported as committed, Nov. 17, 2009
Second consideration, Dec. 8, 2009
Third consideration and final passage, Dec. 15, 2009 (193-0)
In the Senate
Referred to JUDICIARY, Dec. 15, 2009
Reported as amended, June 29, 2010
First consideration, June 29, 2010
Laid on the table, July 3, 2010
Removed from table, Sept. 20, 2010
Second consideration, Sept. 21, 2010
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 21, 2010
Re-reported as committed, Sept. 22, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1281 amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding a new chapter relating to community corrections facilities.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

The legislation defines a “community corrections facility” as a residential facility operated by a private vendor, pursuant to a contract with the Department of Corrections, that houses inmates with pre-release status or individuals who are on parole.

A private vendor who intends to submit a bid to the Department of Corrections pursuant to a request for proposal for beds in a community corrections facility would be required to conduct a public hearing in the municipality where the proposed facility would be located. The private vendor would be required to explain the operation of the facility at the public hearing and to permit public comments. A transcript of the public hearing must be submitted to the Department as part of the bid documents. The Department would be required to consider the substance of public comments when awarding contracts for community corrections facilities.

The legislation further provides that a private vendor would be required to publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation on at least two dates prior to the hearing. A copy of such notice must be provided to the governing body of the municipality where the proposed site is located.

The public hearing requirement would not apply to a bid submitted as the result of a renewal for an existing contract at a facility which has been in use for a minimum of five years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Governor’s Budget Office and the Department of Corrections indicate that the enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.