

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.**

Senate Bill 873

**PRINTER'S NO.**

1046

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 27, 2009

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Baker

**HISTORY OF BILL**Referred to JUDICIARY, May 27, 2009Reported as committed, Sept. 21, 2010

First consideration, Sept. 21, 2010

Second consideration, Sept. 27, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 27, 2010Re-reported as committed, Sept. 29, 2010**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 873 amends §6337 of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further provide for the right to counsel in juvenile matters.

This legislation deletes language in current statute that permits the waiver of counsel for a child by a parent or guardian and inserts additional language that specifically clarifies that counsel for the child cannot be waived at any stage of a proceeding.

Many counties currently require mandatory representation by counsel in juvenile court. This legislation would mandate it statewide.

This Act would take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Testimony during a Pennsylvania House of Representatives Judiciary Committee meeting revealed that in "well over 90% of juvenile cases, the youth will have an attorney." Therefore, the population that would be impacted by this legislation would be minimal.

It has been determined that the enactment of this legislation would not result in any fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Additionally, it is expected that any additional costs to the counties to provide counsel would be minimal.