

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.**

Senate Bill 1275

**PRINTER'S NO.**

1764

**AMOUNT**Net Savings to the Commonwealth

Year #1: \$3.1 Million  
Year #2: \$16.4 Million  
Year #3: \$18.4 Million

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 15, 2010

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Greenleaf

**HISTORY OF BILL**Referred to JUDICIARY, March 15, 2010Reported as committed, April 13, 2010

First consideration, April 13, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 20, 2010Re-reported as committed, May 24, 2010**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1275 amends §6138 of Title 61 (Prisons and Parole Code) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for alternatives to incarceration for "technical parole violators" (TPV's) by establishing a graduated sanctioning process that divides violations into high, medium and low range violations.

This sanctioning process would be designed to hold a parolee accountable for a technical parole violation while avoiding the high costs of recommitting them to prison.

An example of a high range violation is assaultive behavior; a medium range violation is the possession of unauthorized contraband; and a low range violation is the failure to pay supervision fees. The grid will include high, medium and low sanction ranges. An example of a high sanction is shock incarceration; a medium sanction is electronic monitoring; and a low sanction is increased reporting requirements.

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## FISCAL NOTE

According to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (Board), the Board implemented this type of alternative sentencing for TPV's several months ago and this would simply statutorily mandate such sentencing.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to Secretary Beard (Department of Corrections), the following reductions in population and relative cost savings would be realized by the Department of Corrections during the first three years of implementation.

	<b><u>Year #1</u></b>	<b><u>Year #2</u></b>	<b><u>Year #3</u></b>	<b><u>Totals:</u></b>
<b>SCI Population Reduction:</b>	831	1,064	1,140	
<b>SCI Cost Savings:</b>	\$4.6 M	\$22.0 M	\$24.3 M	\$50.9 M
<b>CCC Population Increase:</b>	243	284	304	
<b>CCC Cost Increase:</b>	\$1.5 M	\$5.6 M	\$5.9 M	\$13.0 M
<b>Net Savings to DOC &amp; Commonwealth:</b>	\$3.1M	\$16.4 M	\$18.4 M	\$37.9 M

First year savings are estimated at \$3.1 million and assume that 831 TPV's would not be returned to the custody of the Department of Corrections. Savings are projected to increase to \$16.4 million and \$18.4 million respectively in the second and third years.

The above mentioned savings are only estimates. Actual savings by the Department of Corrections would depend on the established criteria for each sanctioning level developed by the Board.