

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 816

**PRINTER'S NO.** 834

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact (FY 2010-11)  
\$95,000 (FY 2011-12)

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 11, 2011

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Baker

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to JUDICIARY, March 11, 2011

Reported as committed, April 12, 2011

First consideration, April 12, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, May 4, 2011

Re-reported as committed, May 23, 2011

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 816 amends §301 and §302 of Act 111 of 1998, known as the Crime Victims Act.

§301 of the Act created an Office of Victim Advocate within the Board of Probation and Parole (Board) to represent the interests of crime victims before the Board or Department of Corrections (Department).

§302 very narrowly defines the powers and duties of the victim advocate, including representing the interests of individual crime victims before the Board, Department or hearing examiner.

This legislation expands the role of the Office of Victim Advocate and the associated powers and duties by clarifying that the Office not only represent, but advocate for the interests of crime victims.

Additionally, this legislation adds an additional responsibility of representing and advocating on behalf of the interests of crime victims generally, including the victims of juvenile crimes.

This Act would take effect in 60 days.

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to the Office of Victim Advocate and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the additional responsibilities and duties, including representing victims of juvenile crime, will require the hiring of one additional staff member. The Board has estimated it would cost \$88,000 annually for salary and benefits and an additional \$7,000 for operating.

Therefore, it is estimated that the enactment of this legislation would have a total fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds of \$95,000 although there would be no fiscal impact during the current fiscal year.