

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 818

PRINTER'S NO. 836

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

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 818 amends §6352 of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding a subsection to require a court to state the reason for the disposition of a delinquent child on the record in open court. The court shall also state the goals, terms and conditions of that disposition. If the child is to be committed to out-of-home placement, the court shall also state the name of the specific facility, or type of facility to which the child will be committed and the reasons why commitment to that facility was determined to be the least restrictive placement that is consistent with the protection of the public interest and best suited to the child's treatment, supervision, rehabilitation and welfare.

This legislation is the result of key recommendations outlined in the May 2010 Final Report of the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice (ICJJ). Specifically, the ICJJ recommended that the General Assembly amend the Juvenile Act to require juvenile court judges to state on the record how the disposition ordered furthers the goals of the Juvenile Act and the principles of balanced and restorative justice; and, if the disposition is an out-of-home placement, why there is a "clear necessity" to remove the child from home.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.