

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 316

PRINTER'S NO. 3178

AMOUNT

\$3.813 Million in Additional Revenue

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 24, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Harhart

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 316 amends the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L. 177, No. 175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, as amended, to provide for children's advocacy centers.

HB 316 fulfills the recommendation of the Task Force on Child Protection that the General Assembly established a funding mechanism for children's advocacy centers (CACs).

HB 316 amends the Administrative Code in order to create a grant program to fund children's advocacy centers.

HB 316 increases the cost of obtaining a certified copy of a birth record from \$10.00 to \$20.00.

The additional funds from the increase in birth record fees will be used in the following ways:

1. In the initial year 50% of the fee charged by the Department of Health for the birth record will be transferred to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) for training of mandated reporters and other costs related to child abuse.
2. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 50% of the fee charged will be distributed as follows:
 - a. 25% will be used for training of mandated reporters and related child abuse costs.
 - b. 75% will be transferred to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for CACs and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDITs) funding.
3. The following restrictions apply:
 - a. The funding shall not be used to supplant Federal, State or local funds that are otherwise available to CACs and MDITs.

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- b. The Department of Public Welfare shall develop and provide mandated reporter training in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center.

Under the bill, the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) will administer a grant program which has the purpose of providing funding for the operation of existing CACs and for the establishment of additional children's advocacy centers. In awarding the grants, PCCD must consider:

- The number of children to be served;
- The geographical area to be serviced;
- The scope of services;
- The need for services; and
- The availability of expert pediatric medical and mental health services.

In addition, PCCD shall make grants to qualified applicants for the operation of Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams.

In order to be considered a qualified applicant, PCCD must find that either:

- The applicant is a member of the National Children's Alliance, the national accrediting body for children's advocacy centers; or
- In the case of an applicant who is not a member of the National Children's Alliance:
 - The applicant identifies a region of the Commonwealth it intends to serve;
 - The applicant receives a letter of support from the district attorney of the county and team which is brought together under the Child Protective Services Law to investigate cases of child abuse at the county level; and
 - The applicant intends to apply for membership in the National Children's Alliance within reasonable time.
 - The applicant obtains a letter of endorsement from the Pennsylvania Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams.

Further, the bill provides that grants will be provided to all qualified applicants that apply, to the extent funds are available. However, no more than 20% of the funds can be provided to any single applicant. In order to help increase the number of CACs, for the first three years, PCCD must endeavor to provide 30% of the funds to qualified applicants working to establish CACs in regions not yet served by such centers.

HB 316 also establishes the Child Advocacy Center Advisory Committee will consist of no more than 21 members and be appointed by the chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. It also establishes the framework of the committee as follows:

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- Members who shall be included as part of the committee.
- Members shall serve for a 4 year term
- The conditions of the appointment to the committee.
- Quorum is established by a majority of members being present.
- The Governor shall appoint the Chairman from the members of the committee and the committee will meet no less than 4 times per year.
- Establishes the powers and duties of the committee.

This act shall take effect in July 1, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

HB 316 increases the cost of obtaining a certified copy of a birth record from \$10.00 to \$20.00. This increased fee will result in additional annual revenue of \$3.813 million based upon a 5 year average of fee based birth certificated issued by the Department of Health. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015, this additional funding will be directed to the Department of Public Welfare for training of mandated reporters and related child abuse costs. In FY 2015-2016 and all subsequent years, an estimated \$2.860 million will be direct to Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for CACs and MDITs funding and \$0.953 million will be direct to DPW for training of mandated reporters and related child abuse costs.