

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 435

PRINTER'S NO. 4225

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 11, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Moul

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 435 amends Title 23, Domestic Relations, regarding child protective services.

House Bill 435 staggers the dates that individuals must receive clearances so the system is not overwhelmed. Employees are required to comply with the certification requirements by December 31, 2014 and volunteers by July 1, 2015. A further phase in is permitted for those who already have valid clearances. These individuals are required to secure new certifications within 36 months from the date of their most recent certification or within one year if their current certification is older than 36 months. Certifications are required every 36 months thereafter.

A section is added providing for provisional clearances to address the Little League World Series. These volunteers may rely on valid clearances received in their state or foreign nation for a period not to exceed 30 days.

House Bill 435 requires the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to conduct a study and make recommendations on what employment bans should entail for those having contact with children. The recommendations shall include a review of permanent and temporary bans including an appeals process. The report shall be submitted no later than December 31, 2015 to the designated chairs in the House and Senate.

The bill also changes the self-reporting requirements for foster parents to within 72 hours to mirror that of employees and volunteers and enhances confidentiality protections in sections 6399 and 6340.

The effective date is December 31, 2014 with the section pertaining to the report effective immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 435 would require the Department of Human Services to conduct a study on employment bans. This study could be absorbed by Department's current General Government Operations appropriation.