

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 993

**PRINTER'S NO.** 3903

**AMOUNT**

No Significant Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 13, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Murt

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 993 amends the Public Welfare Code to change the name of the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Human Services and requires the department to establish a toll-free fraud tip line. All references to the Department of Public Welfare in statute or regulation shall be considered to be references to the Department of Human Services.

In order to minimize costs, the name change:

- will not affect current legal documents or official actions taken by the department;
- may be phased in for printed materials until supplies are exhausted with the department determining the appropriate schedule;
- signs shall not be replaced until well worn and shall be coordinated with a change in administration; and
- computer system changes shall occur during routine upgrades.

House Bill 993 requires the department to:

- establish a toll-free telephone number and email to report suspect fraud or abuse;
- permit persons to provide information anonymously;
- conduct a thorough investigation of call credible complaints or refer to Office of Inspector General; and
- submit annual report on its fraud prevention activities to Governor and General Assembly and made available on department's website.

House Bill 993 creates provisions on posting information related to the fraud tip line and on enforcement.

This act shall take effect in 60 days after passage.

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## FISCAL NOTE

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 993 does not provide a time frame for the transition for the name change, but rather a gradual transition. The department has indicated the total cost of state funds to be approximately \$1 million. Given the large volume of impacted materials, it is assumed costs would be significant. However, the department is currently engaged in several information technology (IT) updates as a result of changes required under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), therefore, it is assumed that a portion of the costs delineated by the department can be absorbed within existing budgets. Further, given the gradual implementation, it is expected that the department could continue to rely on existing budgets until the transition is complete.

The bill's provisions related to the toll-free fraud tip line should have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. There will be some costs related to the design and distribution of the tip line; however, these costs should be able to be absorbed through the department's normal operating budget.