

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 22

PRINTER'S NO. 1386

AMOUNT
No Significant Fiscal Impact

FUND
General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED
March 15, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR
Senator Ward

HISTORY OF BILL
Referred to AGING AND YOUTH, March 15, 2013
Reported as amended, Sept. 24, 2013
First consideration, Sept. 24, 2013
Second consideration, Sept. 25, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 25, 2013
Re-reported as committed, Oct. 1, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 22 amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) by creating an offense for failing to report suspected child abuse.

Amends the Child Protective Services Law to create the following offenses:

- Makes it a second-degree misdemeanor if a mandated reporter willfully fails to report a suspected case of child abuse or make a referral to the appropriate authorities.
- Makes it first-degree misdemeanor if a person intentionally or knowingly prevents or interferes with the making of a report or referral of suspected child abuse.
- Makes it a third-degree felony if a person intentionally or knowingly acts to prevent the discovery of child abuse in order to protect or insulate any person or entity from prosecution or liability.
- Makes it a third-degree felony if a person continues to fail to make a report of suspected child abuse while they know or has reasonable cause to believe the child is actively being abused.
- Makes it a second-degree felony to commit a second or subsequent offense of any of the above.

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This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 22 will have no significant fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.