

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 508

**PRINTER'S NO.** 718

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 14, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Baker

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to JUDICIARY, Feb. 14, 2013  
Reported as amended, March 19, 2013  
First consideration, March 19, 2013  
Second consideration, March 20, 2013  
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 20, 2013  
Re-reported as committed, April 8, 2013

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 508 amends the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L. 882, No. 111), known as the Crime Victims Act, to permit a victim or victim's representative to provide testimony before the person or body making the parole release decision.

Specifically, this legislation amends §502 (b) of the Crime Victims Act to statutorily authorize victims or a victim's representative to provide testimony before the panel or majority of those members of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole charged with making the parole release decision. The legislation provides that such testimony may be provided by conference call as an alternative to appearing in person. Language clarifies that such testimony shall be confidential.

This legislation also mandates that records maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, pertaining to victims and victim's representatives, be kept separate from other records. Furthermore, it specifies that victim records, including current address, telephone number and any other personal information of the victim and family members, shall be deemed confidential.

This act shall take effect September 1, 2013, or immediately, whichever is later.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of this legislation would have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the legislation merely codifies current practice of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.