

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 163

PRINTER NO. 99

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund and Motor License Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 15, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Greenleaf

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 163 amends Titles 23 (Domestic Relations), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to address the needs of children of incarcerated parents and services available to them.

Specifically, this legislation adds language providing that a person's parental rights shall not be terminated solely on the basis of parental incarceration.

This bill also clarifies that incarceration does not necessarily lead to involuntary termination of parental rights. During permanency hearings, a court must make a number of determinations about a dependent child, including the determination whether to approve a qualified family to adopt the child. This bill clarifies that the court may consider parental incarceration and the efforts made by the incarcerated parent to maintain a meaningful relationship with the child

Finally, Title 44 is amended by adding a new Chapter 25 (Arrest Protocols) to provide for a course of training for ensuring child safety upon the arrest of a parent or guardian which shall be included in the curriculum of each basic training class and as a component of in-service training each year for each law enforcement officer. The bill also establishes guidelines for the identification of minor or dependent children upon arrest and program responsibilities.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) is funded from the General Fund and the Motor License Fund.

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) may incur some costs to formalize the above mentioned education and training, although, it's expected that such costs would be minimal and capable of being absorbed within the agency's current appropriations.