

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1156

PRINTER NO. 1629

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 22, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Sabatina

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1156 amends Title 23 (Child Protective Services) to require health care personnel and clergy to obtain background checks. The bill also extends the time valid general protective services reports can be kept in the statewide database to ten years or until a child who is the subject of the report reaches the age of 23, whichever is shorter. The bill also makes several technical changes.

SB 928 would define "health care personnel" as:

- a health care provider,
- an employee of a health care facility,
- an emergency medical services vehicle operator,
- an emergency medical service provider,
- or an ambulance attendant.

It would not include administrative or other support staff who have no direct contact with children.

The bill allows GPS reports in the statewide database to be kept for ten years or until a child, who is the subject of the report, reaches the age of 23, whichever is shorter.

The bill adds an adult who is employed as health care personnel and is a person responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children to the list of individuals required to get clearances through the CPSL.

The bill would also require an adult volunteer who is serving as health care personnel and is a person who is responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children to obtain background checks.

The bill would add require an individual who is a member of the clergy and is a person responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children to obtain clearances.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

Any clergy, hospital personnel or doctor who has a current certification that is older than 60 months or has never had a certification is required to get their certifications by December 31, 2016.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SB 1156 will have no adverse fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. This bill would increase the number of volunteer background checks, which are free under current law. The increased number of free background checks is assumed to be absorbed within the Department of Human Services and State Police current operating budgets. All other additional background checks require fees that cover the cost of the background check.