

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 859

PRINTER NO. 1123

AMOUNT

No Additional Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

August 29, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Greenleaf

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 859 amends the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L. 1166, No. 274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law (PCCD Law) to establish the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee and the Mental Health and Justice Grant Program.

This legislation establishes a Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (committee) within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The committee shall consist of no more than 33 members, all of whom must have experience in the public safety response and management, treatment or provision of services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice or criminal justice system. Members shall be appointed by the Governor and serve for a four-year term and may be appointed for no more than one additional consecutive term. The members of the committee shall include representatives of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Office of Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, units of local government, public and private agencies and organizations which provide or advocate for mental health treatment and services, agencies which provide housing for the mentally ill, victim service agencies, drug and alcohol treatment providers, police, district attorneys, public defenders, judges of the courts of common pleas, county adult and juvenile probation officers, county wardens and any other individuals with expertise in the public safety response and management, treatment or provision of services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice or criminal justice system.

The committee shall have the power, and its duty shall be:

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to PCCD in the development of the Commission's comprehensive plan relating to treatment and services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems;
2. To serve in an advisory capacity relating to the direct approval and disbursement of financial assistance;

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3. To advise PCCD on the definition, development and correlation of programs and projects and the establishment of priorities for the provision of treatment and services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems; and
4. Upon request, to provide whatever assistance and advice to PCCD on any other matters relating to the provision of treatment and services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections shall cooperate with PCCD in providing resources to them in support of the Committee. Staff support shall be made available to the Committee by the executive director in order to adequately perform their duties.

Additionally, this legislation establishes the Mental Health and Justice Grant Program within PCCD. It requires that PCCD shall award grants to assist in planning, implementing or expanding initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal justice and improve the effectiveness of treatment services for individuals with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system.

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to PCCD, this committee is already in existence and has been issuing grants since 2009. This legislation simply makes it part of the PCCD Law. The estimated annual travel costs for the committee are \$2,500 - \$3,000.

The PCCD has already been budgeting for these costs, therefore, there will be no additional cost to the Commonwealth.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections indicate that any costs related to fulfilling their duties to cooperate with PCCD in providing resources in support of the Committee would be minimal and capable of being accommodated within the agency's current workload and budget.