

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 276

**PRINTER NO.** 284

**AMOUNT**

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2019-20

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 1, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Delozier

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 276 amends Article I (Declaration of Rights) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by establishing a new § 9.1 (Rights of victims of crime) to grant inherent rights to victims of crime.

This legislation requires that, for the criminal and juvenile justice systems, the enumerated rights of victims are to be protected no less vigorously than the rights afforded the accused. This legislation stipulates that there be notice of hearings and other proceedings, reasonable protection from the accused, notice of release or escape of an accused, full and timely restitution, proceedings free from delays and with prompt conclusion, the ability to confer with the government's attorney and information on all of these rights.

The term "victim" includes any person against whom the criminal offense or delinquent act is committed or who is directly harmed by the commission of the offense or act. The term "victim" does not include the accused or a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor or incapacitated victim.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Article XI (Amendments), §1 requires that legislation proposing to amend the Constitution be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions, be advertised in two newspapers in each county after each passage and thereafter be approved by the electorate.

The Department of State estimates the cost for advertisement of a constitutional amendment to be approximately \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000.