

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1051

PRINTER'S NO. 1457

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 5, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Stephens

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1051 amends the Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to increase the penalties for mandated reporters who continue to fail to report suspected child abuse and broadens the "continuing course of action" provision.

House Bill 1051 amends section 6319 of the Domestic Relations Code by increasing the offense of willfully failing to report suspected child abuse by a mandated reporter when it is a "continuing course of action" from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree, except that if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the person commits a felony of the second degree.

The bill clarifies that the statute of limitations for an offense under this section shall be either the statute of limitations for the crime committed against the minor child or five years, whichever is greater.

This act shall take effect 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 1051 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing's online database, since 2016 there have been four cases of Title 23 section 6319 violations.