

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 479

**PRINTER NO.** 498

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

March 26, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Baker

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 479 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further provide for the admissibility of certain statements.

§ 5985.1 (relating to admissibility of certain statements) is amended to permit out-of-court statements made by a child victim or witness as evidence in certain criminal and civil court proceedings when the statement is provided by a victim or witness 12 years of age or younger.

Current law provides that these statements may be introduced as evidence in describing the following offenses under 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses):

- Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide);
- Chapter 27 (relating to assault);
- Chapter 29 (relating to kidnapping);
- Chapter 31 (relating to sexual offenses);
- Chapter 35 (relating to burglary and other criminal intrusion); and
- Chapter 37 (relating to robbery).

Senate Bill 479 adds the following offenses:

- Chapter 30 (relating to human trafficking);
- Section 4302 (relating to incest);
- Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children), if the offense involved sexual contact with victim;
- Section 6301 (a)(1)(ii) (relating to corruption of minors);
- Section 6312 (b) (relating to sexual abuse of children);
- Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with minor); and
- Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children).

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.