

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1119

PRINTER NO. 1643

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Judicial Computer System
Augmentation Restricted Receipt
Account

DATE INTRODUCED

April 17, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1119 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) adding a new section providing for declaration of judicial emergencies.

This legislation adds a new section 5506 (providing for Declaration of Judicial Emergencies) extending the statute of limitations for commencing an action during a judicial emergency declared by the governing authority, a rule of the court or other judicial order. The bill provides that the time within which the action must be commenced shall be tolled. A person may commence the action within 30 days after the expiration of the declared judicial emergency, and the action shall be deemed timely filed under section 5503(a) (relating to commencement of matters). This section shall apply to any judicial district for which a judicial emergency is declared. If a statewide judicial emergency is declared by a governing authority, this section shall apply to all judicial districts.

This new section shall be retroactive to March 18, 2020, to provide for the current judicial emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania by rule has suspended all timed deadlines during judicial emergencies. This legislation simply codifies this intent, providing parties an additional 30 days to file lawsuits after the expiration of the emergency.

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.