

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1170

PRINTER NO. 1769

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 28, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Langerholc

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1170 amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes providing for expert testimony in certain criminal proceedings relating to domestic violence.

This legislation amends section 5920(a) to provide that a witness may be qualified by the court as an expert witness in a criminal case regarding:

- 1) Any crime listed under Subchapters H (relating to registration of sexual offenders) and I (relating to continued registration of sexual offenders) of Chapter 97;
- 2) An offense under 18 Pa.C.S. Chapters 30 (relating to human trafficking) and 31 (relating to sexual offenses); and
- 3) A criminal proceeding for a domestic violence offense.

The expert shall assist the trier of fact in understanding the dynamics of sexual violence or domestic violence, victim responses to sexual violence or domestic violence, and the impact of sexual violence or domestic violence on victims during and after being assaulted.

As used in this section, "domestic violence" is defined as an offense under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2701 (relating to simple assault), § 2702 (relating to aggravated assault) or § 2718 (relating to strangulation) perpetrated against a family or household member, as that term is defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6102 (relating to definitions).

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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