

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1165

PRINTER NO. 1534

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

April 22, 2024

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Boscola

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1165 amends Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) to provide for criminal history background checks.

This legislation creates a new section to require criminal background checks and the submission of fingerprints for an individual applying for a license, certificate, registration or permit as a health care practitioner. The Pennsylvania State Police shall use fingerprints to determine if an applicant has a current record of criminal arrests or convictions. An applicant's fingerprints must also be submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Results shall be sent to the Department of State for the sole purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for licensure.

Health care practitioners include individuals who are authorized to practice some component of healing arts by one of the following boards:

- The State Board of Chiropractic,
- The State Board of Dentistry,
- The State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology,
- The State Board of Medicine,
- The State Board of Nursing,
- The State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure,
- The State Board of Osteopathic Medicine,
- The State Board of Pharmacy,
- The State Board of Physical Therapy,
- The State Board of Podiatry,
- The State Board of Psychology and
- The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

This act shall take effect in 180 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of State, Senate Bill 1165 is anticipated to cost approximately \$15,000 for changes in the Pennsylvania Licensure System (PALS) for the addition of criminal history checks.