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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2735 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY RABB, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, SIMS, DONATUCCI AND  
HILL-EVANS, OCTOBER 17, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 17, 2018

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 46 (Legislature) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, providing for demographic impact statements in  
3 consideration of legislation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 46 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

8 PART III

9 LEGISLATION

10 Chapter

11 21. Demographic Impact Statements

12 CHAPTER 21

13 DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT STATEMENTS

14 Sec.

15 2101. Scope of chapter.

16 2102. Definitions.

17 2103. Demographic impact statements.

18 § 2101. Scope of chapter.

1 This chapter relates to demographic impact statements.

2 § 2102. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing  
7 established under 42 Pa.C.S. § 2151.2 (relating to commission).

8 § 2103. Demographic impact statements.

9 (a) Authorized.--Upon request of a member of either house of  
10 the General Assembly, the commission shall complete a  
11 demographic impact statement for any bill or amendment to a bill  
12 proposing a change to 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 (relating to sentencing)  
13 or 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses) to determine the  
14 impact, if any, the proposed bill or amendment may have on the  
15 demographic composition of the criminal offender population or  
16 juvenile court system. The demographic impact statement shall be  
17 impartial, simple and understandable.

18 (b) Bill.--Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e)  
19 (1), no bill for which a demographic impact statement has been  
20 requested under subsection (a) may be given second consideration  
21 by the house of the General Assembly whose member made the  
22 request until such time as the commission has attached the  
23 demographic impact statement.

24 (c) Amendment.--Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
25 (e) (2), neither an amendment for which a demographic impact  
26 statement has been requested under subsection (a), nor the bill  
27 to which the amendment is offered, shall be considered by the  
28 house of the General Assembly whose member made the request  
29 until such time as the commission has attached the demographic  
30 impact statement.

1 (d) Contents.--For groups for which data are available  
2 regarding racial and ethnic composition, geographic and  
3 socioeconomic status, age, gender and religious and  
4 ethnoreligious affiliations, the demographic impact statement  
5 shall include the following:

6 (1) An estimate of how the legislation would change the  
7 demographic composition of the criminal offender population  
8 and juvenile court system.

9 (2) A statement of the methodologies and assumptions  
10 used in preparing the estimate.

11 (3) If the demographic impact statement addresses the  
12 effect of the legislation on the criminal offender population  
13 and juvenile court system, an estimate of the demographic  
14 composition of the crime victims who may be affected by the  
15 legislation.

16 (e) Failure to attach.--The following shall apply:

17 (1) If the commission fails to attach a demographic  
18 impact statement to a bill within 10 days after a request for  
19 a statement has been submitted to the commission, the bill  
20 may be further considered in the same manner as if the  
21 demographic impact statement is attached to the bill.

22 (2) If the commission fails to attach a demographic  
23 impact statement to an amendment within 10 days after a  
24 request for a statement has been submitted to the commission,  
25 the bill and the amendment may be considered in the same  
26 manner as if the demographic impact statement is attached to  
27 the amendment.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.