



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2134

PRINTERS NO. 4093

PRIME SPONSOR: Masser

REVENUE INCREASE / (DECREASE)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
Crime Victim's Compensation Fund	\$2,675,000 to \$2,750,000	\$5,350,000 to \$5,500,000
Victim Witness Services Fund	\$3,500,000	\$7,000,000

SUMMARY:

House Bill 2134 amends the Crime Victims Act. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

This legislation amends the Crimes Victims Act by raising costs on offenders to increase funding for victim services and adding requirements concerning the Address Confidentiality Program.

The minimum cost for an adult who pleads guilty or is placed in a diversionary program is raised from \$60 to \$110. This \$110 will be split evenly between the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund and the Victim Witness Services Fund. Any costs assessed on these individuals exceeding \$110 will be split as follows: 30% for the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund and 70% for the Victim Witness Services Fund.

The bill also increases the minimum amount assessed against juvenile offenders from \$25 to \$35. As under current law, all of this money will be placed in the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

House Bill 2134 also adds to the list of crime victims' rights the right to be notified of the Address Confidentiality Program if the victim is eligible to participate in the program. It also adds to the powers and duties of the office of victim advocate. The victim advocate is given the power and duty to advocate for the interests of crime victims generally, including the victims of crimes committed by juveniles. The office is also given the duty to ensure crime victims are notified of the Address Confidentiality Program if the victim is eligible to participate in the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency estimates the fee increase on adult offenders will raise an additional \$5 million annually for the Crime Victim's Compensation

Fund and an additional \$7 million annually for the Victim Witness Services Fund. The fee increase on juvenile offenders will raise approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000 additional annually for the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund. The table above assumes this fee increase will be in effect for six months of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 17, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.