



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 488

PRINTERS NO. 2239

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	

SUMMARY:

House Bill 488 amends the Crimes Code concerning endangering the welfare of children. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 488 amends the Crimes Code to expand the offense of endangering the welfare of children. It provides that a parent supervising the welfare of a child under 18 years of age commits an offense of endangering the welfare of the child if the parent, with reckless disregard for the risk of harm to the child or for the health, safety or welfare of the child, fails to report the disappearance of the child to a law enforcement agency. A disappearance is considered an instance in which a parent does not know the whereabouts of the child for more than 24 hours. The term parent includes a natural parent, stepparent, adoptive parent, or guardian of a child.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation could have a fiscal impact on state and local governments by expanding the conduct that is considered endangering the welfare of a child, thereby increasing the number of persons sentenced for the crime. However, data are not available to determine the possible extent of that impact. According to data in the latest annual report from the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing for the year 2019, under current law 901 people were sentenced for endangering the welfare of a child. Of that total, 81 were sentenced to state incarceration, 254 to county incarceration, 440 to probation, and the remainder to intermediate or some other form of punishment.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 6, 2021

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