

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 14

PRINTER NO. 1017

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2021-22

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 11, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Gregory

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 14 is a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide for a two-year window for victims of childhood sexual abuse to file previously time barred claims.

This legislation proposes to amend Article I, Section 11 (courts to be open; suits against the Commonwealth) by adding a new subsection (b) to provide that an individual for whom a statutory limitations period has already expired, or whose claim would otherwise be barred or limited by a statutory cap on damages, sovereign immunity or by governmental or official immunity, shall have a period of two years, without bar or limitation by such caps or immunities, from the time that this new subsection becomes effective to commence an action arising from childhood sexual abuse.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Article XI, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that legislation proposing to amend the Constitution be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions, be advertised in two newspapers in each county after each passage and thereafter be approved by the electorate.

The Department of State estimates the cost for each required advertisement of a Constitutional amendment to be approximately \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. Costs for advertising the amendment in two consecutive legislative sessions would amount to approximately \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.