

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 8

PRINTER NO. 22

AMOUNT

FUND

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2020-2021 General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

PRIME SPONSOR

January 20, 2021

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 8 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 shall have a period of two years 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.