

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 881

PRINTER NO. 1184

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 28, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Langerholc

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 881 amends Title 53 to provide for the Safe Exchange Zone Program.

This bill allows for municipalities to establish safe locations for the public to exchange goods purchased online and for child custody exchanges. Municipalities may apply for a one-time grant to establish these zones with participating entities that include a local police department, a county sheriff or the Pennsylvania State Police.

The legislation requires the zones:

- To include video surveillance;
- To include signage displaying the participating entity’s phone number and instructions to dial 911 in case of emergency;
- To be placed within 100 feet of a local police department, county sheriff’s office, State Trooper barracks, public park, county courthouse, municipal or local magistrate’s office, or other area approved by the Department of Community and Economic Development (department);
- To be on land under the jurisdiction or ownership of the applicant municipality.

The department shall establish guidelines and procedures for video surveillance and storage and that video surveillance is the responsibility of the entity that agreed to assist. The entity may not interfere with an exchange unless it presents a clear and present danger or unless the entity is contacted by a participant.

Senate Bill 881 requires the department to generate an application. Priority shall be given to municipalities seeking to establish a zone within 100 feet of a local police department, county sheriff’s office or State Trooper barracks. The application shall be approved or denied within 30 days of the department receiving it, and awards must be disbursed geographically throughout the Commonwealth. The disbursement is subject to an audit by the department and the Auditor General.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 881 establishes a grant program to municipalities to establish a safe exchange zone. The amount of funding for the program will be dependent on appropriations made by the General Assembly. The department estimates \$50,000 will be necessary to administer the program.