



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1538

PRINTER'S NO. 2443

PRIME SPONSOR: Solomon

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

### SUMMARY:

Establishes the Public Safety Resident Communications Program within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1538 establishes the Public Safety Resident Communications Program within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The purpose of the program is to provide notification to an individual as to how to receive relevant information about the status of a criminal case from an attorney for the Commonwealth or a law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth. The program may be used by law enforcement agencies to contact individuals with whom officers of the agency have interacted.

The legislation requires that the program be administered as a platform and sets specific requirements for the platform's functionality. The bill also sets certain limitations for the platform, including that individuals may not be required to download the application, that individuals may opt out of notifications, and that the commission, a law enforcement agency, or an attorney of the Commonwealth may not disclose information that could jeopardize successful prosecution of a case unless the information is required to be disclosed under Federal or State law. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, information disclosed or circulated through the program is exempt from access under the Right-to-Know Law.

The bill provides that money appropriated to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency shall not be used for the implementation of the Public Safety Resident Communications Program without written confirmation from the commission to the Secretary of the Budget that there is no duplicative or similar criminal case victim notification system used in the Commonwealth.

This legislation would take effect in six months upon enactment.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have an unknown impact on Commonwealth funds. The cost of the legislation would be a function of the cost of either acquiring a statewide communication system or modifying existing systems. According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, possible vendors for the program include SPIDR Tech software and PowerDMS Community Engagement Software. The cost of the SPIDR Tech software is based on the selected package and the size of the state or locality.

It is possible that modifying one of the Commonwealth's communication systems would be the most cost-effective option. Both the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (PA SAVIN) service and the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET) offer a platform that could potentially be modified to meet the requirements of the proposed legislation. If the development of this new system mirrors the cost of PA SAVIN or JNET, it could cost anywhere from \$40 million to \$50 million with an annual maintenance cost of \$10 million.

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**DATE:** March 15, 2024

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