



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
|| BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 790
Printer's No. 1071

Prime Sponsor: Senator Hughes
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends the Fiscal Code to establish the First Chance Trust Fund for at-risk youth.

SUMMARY:

Establishes the First Chance Trust Fund as a restricted account in the General Fund. Identifies the sources of revenue as follows: (1) Contributions from selected contractors; (2) Grants, gifts, donations or other payments from a person or business entity, nonprofit entity, or a government entity; (3) Money appropriated into the fund.

Directs money in the fund to be appropriated to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("Commission") on a continuing basis for the following purpose of operating a scholarship program and providing grants to programs for students in regions of the Commonwealth that have statistically higher high school dropout rates or incarceration rates, as determined by the Commission.

Authorizes the Commission to solicit and accept gifts, donations, legacies, and other revenues for deposit into the fund from a person or government entity. Requires the Commission to adopt a statement of policy for the maintenance and use of the fund before making any payments from the fund.

Requires the Commission to submit annual reports to the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives providing details about the fund's revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year, the number of scholarships awarded and the name and county of recipients, and the number of grants awarded and the name and county of the grantees.

Directs the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the fund's revenues and expenditures no later than three years after the effective date of the act. Requires the Auditor General to submit a report of the audit to the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Requires the Department of Corrections to include in its requests for proposals, invitations for bids, and notices of sole source procurement under the Commonwealth Procurement Act a requirement that the selected contractor shall contribute the equivalent value of 1% of the annual contract amount to the fund no later than June 30 of any fiscal year when the contract is in effect. Permits the Department to

withhold the equivalent value of 1% of the contract amount and remit the money to the fund. Permits the Secretary of Corrections to waive the contribution requirement.

Permits other Commonwealth agencies to include the contribution requirement in its procurement documents if the contract dollar threshold is expected to exceed \$5,000,000 annually.

Defines "program" as an evidence-based or outcome-based program for eligible children, aimed at reducing risk factors and producing positive outcomes, which may include mentoring, individual counseling, and therapeutic services and family-strengthening activities.

Defines "scholarship program" as one which assists students in obtaining education or vocational training. The students must reside in the Commonwealth and attend an institution of education or vocational training; must be 24 years of age or younger; and must meet other eligibility requirements determined by the Commission.

Amendment A03339:

Adds a preamble declaring that:

- At-risk youth have engaged in or are at risk of engaging in conduct that can be a precursor to dropping out of school, engaging in criminal behavior, acquiring a low-paying job, and being unemployed; and
- Providing better opportunities for at-risk youth and leading them away from negative social activities will result in better outcomes.

Adds "high crime rates" to higher high school dropout rates and incarceration rates for purposes of eligibility for the programs.

Requires the Commission's statement of policy to identify risk factors for children that lead to criminal behavior and to provide for the maintenance and use of the fund. Requires the Commission to review its policy at least once per year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Effective in 30 days.

BILL HISTORY:

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 9/15/2017