



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
|| BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 523
Printer's No. 535

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends The Crime Victims Act to make technical changes related to the consolidation of the Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation and Parole into a single agency called the Department of Criminal Justice.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes technical changes to reflect the change in name of the Department and to reflect that the Office of Victim Advocate will reside as an independent criminal justice agency within the Department instead of the Board of Probation and Parole. The bill makes clear that the Department, the Board, and the Office of Victim Advocate shall keep separate records with regard to crime victims and the confidentiality of such victim records shall be maintained.

The Department will provide office space and related support to the Office of Victim Advocate, and counsel will be provided to the Office under the Commonwealth Attorney's Act. The bill provides that the Victim Advocate may be removed by the Governor for cause and with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill is effective in one year.

BILL HISTORY:

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 3/17/2017