

## **COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill:** Senate Bill 1016

**Printer's No.:** 1227

**Sponsor:** Senator Boscola

**Prepared by:** Gregg Warner

**Synopsis:** This bill amends the Judicial Code, Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, to add a section authorizing the interception of state income tax refunds for the payment of restitution.

**Summary:** New section 9778 directs the Department of Revenue to implement a State income tax refund intercept program when, in the judgment of the department, it is cost effective to do so for any person owing any restitution as a result of a criminal conviction in Pennsylvania.

**Applicability**

This section shall only apply to individual State tax returns.

**Effective date**

This act takes effect in 60 days.

**Background:** Senate Bill 1016 is based on Recommendation 46 in the “Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force Final Report” issued in February 2013. The Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force was convened by the Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate in collaboration with the Center for Schools and Communities. The purpose of the task force was to find ways to maximize payments to crime victims for financial losses.

Recommendation 46 states: “The General Assembly should consider enacting or amending statute to require the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and Pennsylvania Lottery to pay any state judicial debt to include overdue restitution, costs and/or fines from any state income tax refunds and/or lottery winnings.”