



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 741 Printer's No. 903

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to address sunset provisions and surcharges related to funding of the courts and civil legal services for poor persons in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY:

Extends the sunset provision from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2022 for the program that defrays the costs imposed on the counties for the staff and facilities relating to senior judges assigned to the courts of common pleas.

Adds two dollars (*i.e.*, from \$10 to \$12) to surcharges imposed on all court filings in the Commonwealth and makes a corresponding increase to the amount of surcharges that are deposited in the Access to Justice Account.

Extends the sunset provision from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2022 for the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account.

Eliminates the sunset provision (currently November 1, 2017) for the Access to Justice funding that supports the delivery of civil legal services to poor persons.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Effective in 60 days.

BILL HISTORY:

None.

COMMENT:

In accordance with the current sunset provision in the chapter governing Access to Justice, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee issued a performance audit in October 2016 finding that Access to Justice funding has been stagnant since 2011 and other civil legal aid funding has declined. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly eliminate the sunset provision for Access to Justice funding.

Prepared by: Cawley 6/2/2017