

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: House Bill 1546

Printer's No.: 1944

Sponsor: Representative Toohil

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends section 6373 of the Judicial Code, Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the powers and duties of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Summary: As amended, section 6373(4) expands the commission's duties relating to collecting and analyzing data and posting information on the commission's website.

Section 6373(4)

The commission shall have the power and is required to collect and analyze data to identify trends and evidenced-based programs and practices to ensure reasonable and efficient administration of the juvenile justice system. The commission shall make recommendations concerning best practices to judges, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts and other appropriate entities. The commission shall post appropriate information on the commission's Internet website.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The House of Representatives passed House Bill 1546 on June 13, 2011 by a vote of 201 to 0.

Current law

Chapter 63 of the Judicial Code is the Juvenile Act. Subchapter F provides for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Section 6373 provides for the commission's powers and duties. Section 6373(4) directs the commission to "Collect, compile and publish such statistical and other data as may be needed to accomplish reasonable and efficient administration of the juvenile courts system."

Purpose

The purpose of House Bill 1546 is to expand upon section 6373(4) to emphasize evidence-based programs and practices and to post related information on the commission's website. The bill was introduced in response to the Luzerne County juvenile justice scandal.