151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 264**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Griffith**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 10 AND 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act permits a person who has been the victim of non-consensual sexual conduct or penetration to apply for a sexual violence protective order if there is a belief that the perpetrator will harm the petitioner in the future. This Act provides for an emergency ex parte hearing and a non-emergency hearing in Superior Court.
3. This Act will require the Superior Court (SC) to implement a multi-step intake, documentation, scheduling, and service process to ensure compliance. The number of sexual violence protective orders that will be filed cannot be projected, but the SC will require personnel for implementation. The Court proposes utilizing a process similar to Family Court's Protection from Abuse/Emergency Case Processing Unit as the framework for implementing a process in SC. Recurring annual and one-time costs are estimated as follows:
    a. Recurring Costs - $375,339
        1. $365,339 in Personnel Costs, including OECs (at a rate of 33.11%), for 5.0 FTEs, Administrative Specialist III, and 3.0 FTEs, Social Service Specialist III.
        2. $2,500 for printing forms, postage, and other office supplies and material needs.
        3. $7,500 for the service of process, victim training programs, and other contractual service needs.
    b. One-Time Costs - $22,400
        1. $22,400 for computer equipment and office furniture startup costs for new positions.
4. Lastly, Fiscal Year 2023 personnel costs have been estimated for 9-months of funding with the annualization of the remaining 3-months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation cost has been included for projected increases to salary, health insurance, and OECs.

Cost:

	Operating/Recurring	**One-Time**
Fiscal Year 2023:	$375,339	$22,400
Fiscal Year 2024:	$506,861	
Fiscal Year 2025:	$516,798	

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Office of the Controller General