



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 808

PRINTERS NO. 837

PRIME SPONSOR: Smucker

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
Second Class A through Eighth Class County Funds	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the County Code to permit county commissioners to abolish the office of jury commissioner. This legislation would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation reenacts the jury commissioners provision from Act 108 of 2011 that the PA Supreme Court determined violated the single subject rule of Article III, Section 3 of the PA Constitution (66 MAP 2012) (March 14, 2013). This legislation does not reenact the provision that the resolution shall not be passed in any year in which the office of jury commissioner is on the ballot.

This legislation amends the County Code to permit the county commissioners of a county of a second class A or third through eighth class to abolish the office of jury commissioner by adopting a resolution by a majority vote. The resolution may only be adopted after reviewing the procedures in effect within the county to ensure that lists of potential jurors are a representative cross section of the community. Jury commissioners currently in office will serve out their terms.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. According to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), the aggregate cost to counties that elect 2 jury commissioners is approximately \$1.4 million annually, or about \$22,000 per county, assuming that these officials retain their compensation. This legislation provides the opportunity for these counties to eliminate those expenses if they choose to eliminate the office. These savings estimates were conducted in April of 2011 and include salaries and estimated benefits. Prior to the Court ruling, 42 of the 56 counties that relied on jury commissioners had adopted resolutions abolishing the office as authorized in Act 108. It is possible that the full savings potential may not be realized as a county would have to replace the functions now performed by those commissioners.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 23, 2013

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.