

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 111

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND

Printer's No. 1699

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 3, by striking out the period after

2 "judges" and inserting

3 ; and, in the Judiciary, further providing for the Supreme
4 Court, the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court and for
5 judicial districts and boundaries.

6 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 24 and 25

7 (2) That section 2 of Article V be amended to read:

8 § 2. Supreme Court.

9 The Supreme Court (a) shall be the highest court of the
10 Commonwealth and in this court shall be reposed the supreme
11 judicial power of the Commonwealth;

12 (b) shall consist of seven justices, to be selected from
13 seven judicial districts which shall be established by law, one
14 of whom shall be the Chief Justice; and

15 (c) shall have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by
16 law.

17 (3) That section 3 of Article V be amended to read:

18 § 3. Superior Court.

19 The Superior Court shall be a statewide court, and shall
20 consist of [the number of judges, which shall be not less than
21 seven judges] 15 judges, to be selected from 15 judicial
22 districts which shall be established by law, and have such
23 jurisdiction as shall be provided by this Constitution or by the
24 General Assembly. One of its judges shall be the president
25 judge.

26 (4) That section 4 of Article V be amended to read:

27 § 4. Commonwealth Court.

28 The Commonwealth Court shall be a statewide court, and shall
29 consist of [the number of judges] nine judges, to be selected
30 from nine judicial districts which shall be established by law,
31 and have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by law. One of
32 its judges shall be the president judge.

33 (5) That section 11 of Article V be amended to read:

34 § 11. Judicial districts; boundaries.

35 [The number and boundaries of judicial districts shall be
36 changed by the General Assembly only with the advice and consent
37 of the Supreme Court.]

1 (a) The number of judges and justices of the Supreme Court,
2 the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court selected from each
3 judicial district shall provide every resident of this
4 Commonwealth with approximately equal representation on a court.
5 Each judicial district shall be composed of compact and
6 contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as
7 practicable. One judge or justice shall be selected for each
8 judicial district. Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city,
9 incorporated town, borough, township or ward may be divided in
10 forming a judicial district.

11 (b) The General Assembly shall, by law, establish:

12 (1) The judicial districts from which justices of the
13 Supreme Court and the judges of the Superior Court and the
14 Commonwealth Court are selected.

15 (2) A transition to an appellate court judiciary selected
16 from judicial districts.

17 (3) The effect of set judicial districts upon eligibility to
18 seek retention election.

19 (4) The order in which judicial districts shall elect
20 justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Superior Court
21 and the Commonwealth Court.

22 (5) The decennial realignment of the appellate judicial
23 districts based on the Federal decennial census, beginning in
24 2021 and occurring each ten years thereafter.

25 (c) Residency qualification for appointment to the Supreme
26 Court, the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court shall be
27 established by the General Assembly.

28 (d) Except as provided under subsection (b) and section
29 7(b), the number and boundaries of all other judicial districts
30 shall be established by the General Assembly by law, with the
31 advice and consent of the Supreme Court.

32 Amend Bill, page 2, line 25, by striking out "(2)" and
33 inserting

34 (6)

35 Amend Bill, page 5, line 26, by striking out "(3)" and
36 inserting

37 (7)

38 Amend Bill, page 9, line 17, by inserting after "Court"

39 for a judicial district established under section 11

40 Amend Bill, page 9, line 27, by striking out "geographic,"

41 Amend Bill, page 10, by inserting between lines 2 and 3

42 (2) be a resident of the judicial district where the vacancy
43 exists, subject to any requirement established by law regarding

1 judicial districts;

2 Amend Bill, page 10, line 3, by striking out "(2)" and
3 inserting

4 (3)

5 Amend Bill, page 10, line 5, by striking out "(3)" and
6 inserting

7 (4)

8 Amend Bill, page 10, line 17, by striking out "(4)" and
9 inserting

10 (8)