



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

PRINTERS NO. 3347

PRIME SPONSOR: S.H. Smith

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$1,000,000

SUMMARY:

House Bill 153 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reduce the size of the General Assembly.

ANALYSIS:

The bill proposes an amendment to Section 16 of Article II of the Constitution to reduce the number of senatorial districts from 50 to 38 and the number of representative districts from 203 to 153.

In order to amend the Constitution, legislation proposing the Constitutional amendment must be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions and be advertised in newspapers upon each passage before being submitted to the electorate for approval.

Article XI, Section 1, of the Constitution requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to publish the proposed amendment in two newspapers in every county in which newspapers are published after first and second passage of the legislation by the General Assembly.

If House Bill 153 is enacted it would be the first passage of the proposed Constitutional referendum to reduce the size of the General Assembly.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Based on estimates provided by the Department of State, the enactment of this bill will result in advertising costs to the Commonwealth of approximately \$1,000,000 for the required publication of the proposed Constitutional amendment in two newspapers in every county in which newspapers are published.

Using the current base salary for legislators, a reduction in total of 50 members of the House of Representatives and 12 members of the Senate would result in a minimum annual savings to the General Fund of approximately \$5.1 million.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 4, 2012

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