



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1234

PRINTERS NO. 1901

PRIME SPONSOR: S.H. Smith

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	See fiscal impact below	See fiscal impact below

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1234 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 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 1234 is enacted it would be the first passage of the proposed Constitutional referendum to reduce the size of the House of Representatives.

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 \$1,400,000 to \$1,600,000 for the required publication of the proposed Constitutional amendment in two newspapers in every county in which newspapers are published.

The reduction of 50 members in the House of Representatives would not be effective until the first legislative session after the 2020 reapportionment. Using the current base salary for legislators and assuming the elimination/reduction of other associated costs, a reduction of 50 members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives could result in annual savings to the General Fund of approximately \$10 Million to \$15 Million.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Taglang
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 17, 2013

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