



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

PRINTERS NO. 2993

PRIME SPONSOR: Knowles

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	See fiscal impact below	See fiscal impact below

#### SUMMARY:

House Bill 153, printer's number 2993, 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 151.

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 in its present form it would be the first passage of the proposed Constitutional referendum to reduce the size of the General Assembly.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of this bill will result in advertising costs to the Commonwealth of approximately \$900,000 to \$1,200,000 for the required publication of the proposed Constitutional amendment in two newspapers in every county in which newspapers are published.

The reduction of 12 senators in the Senate and 52 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 12 senators and 52 representatives could result in annual savings to the General Fund of approximately \$17 million to \$23 million (\$4 million to \$7 million for the Pennsylvania Senate and \$13 million to \$16 million for the House of Representatives).

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** September 25, 2018

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