



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

PRINTERS NO. 2914

PRIME SPONSOR: Kauffman

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	See fiscal impact below	See fiscal impact below

SUMMARY:

House Bill 253 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 37.

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 253 is enacted it would be the first passage of the proposed Constitutional referendum to reduce the size of the Pennsylvania Senate.

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 in the size of the Pennsylvania Senate by 13 senators 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 13 members of the Pennsylvania Senate could result in annual savings to the General Fund of approximately \$4 million to \$7 million.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 5, 2018

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