



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 196

PRINTERS NO. 168

PRIME SPONSOR: Diamond

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| General Fund | See Fiscal Impact | |

SUMMARY:

House Bill 196, Printer's Number 168 is a Joint Resolution proposing to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article V (The Judiciary) to organize the Judiciary into regional judicial districts.

ANALYSIS:

HB 196 proposes to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to provide that justices and judges of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court will be elected from each judicial district that will provide every resident of the Commonwealth with approximately equal representation on the court.

The General Assembly shall, by law, establish: the judicial districts, a transition to an appellate court judiciary elected from judicial districts, retention elections, the order of the elections and the decennial realignment of the judicial districts.

As a proposed constitutional amendment, this legislation must pass each chamber of the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions and then must be presented to the voters for adoption. This is the first consideration of this proposed constitutional amendment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The first passage of a proposed constitutional amendment requires that the Secretary of the Commonwealth advertise the amendment in accordance with Article XI (Amendments), Section 1 (Proposal of amendments by the General Assembly and their adoption) of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The constitutional amendment advertising requirements will result in a cost of approximately \$500,000 to \$1 million.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 7, 2019

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