



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 976

976

PRINTERS NO. 2023

PRIME SPONSOR: Regan

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 976, Printer's Number 2023, amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) by further providing for commerce and veterans courts.

ANALYSIS:

SB 976 amends the Judicial Code by adding new Sections 743 (Commerce Court Program) and 916.1 (Commerce Courts) authorizing, from funds available, a commerce court program within the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas. This court will have specialized jurisdiction over appeals relating to internal affairs, governance, dissolution, liquidation, rights or obligations between or among owners and liability or indemnity of managers of business corporations, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, professional associations, business trusts, joint ventures or other business enterprises. This court will have jurisdiction over disputes between or among two or more business enterprises relating to a transaction, business relationship or a contract. The jurisdiction of this court will not affect the jurisdiction of an appellate court.

To the extent funds are available, the legislation further provides that the Supreme Court may appoint a statewide commerce court coordinator and an advisory committee to assist in the establishment of commerce courts and the monitoring and administration of these courts.

SB 976 also amends the Judicial Code, Section 916 (Problem-solving courts), by adding "veterans courts" to the list of specific problem-solving courts established within the courts of common pleas or the Municipal Court of Philadelphia. These courts may establish a "veterans track" within the problem-solving courts, providing a specific program that will utilize treatment resources and veteran mentors.

This act would take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SB 976 authorizes the establishment of a commerce court, from funds available. Therefore, any costs associated with the establishment of this court program would be absorbed within current appropriation funding levels.

The legislation adds a veteran's court program within the current problem-solving court structure. Any fiscal impact from the enactment of this legislation would be difficult to determine, as it would be impossible to determine how many courts would establish this program. Any costs associated with establishing a veterans' court would be paid through the courts' existing appropriation levels. For Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the appropriation for problem-solving courts was \$1.1 million.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 21, 2020

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