

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 161

**PRINTER'S NO.** 2297

**AMOUNT**

\$1,000,000 – FY 2012-13

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 22, 2012

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Brubaker

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to FINANCE, May 22, 2012

Reported as committed, May 23, 2012

First consideration, May 23, 2012

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 11, 2012

Re-reported as amended, June 18, 2012

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 161 as amended, amends Section 2. (b) of Article VIII of the Pennsylvania Constitution to allow the General Assembly, by law, to establish uniform standards and qualifications to be used as the criteria by which it will be determined if an institution of purely public charity qualifies to be exempt from taxation under Article VIII, Section 2.(a), clause (v) of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

In order to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, the bill proposing the amendment must be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions, be advertised per Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution, and finally be approved by the electorate.

The effective date of this bill is dependent on the time needed to comply with Constitutional requirements stated in the preceding paragraph.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Under Article XI, Section 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to have the proposed amendment published in two newspapers in every county throughout the Commonwealth, upon first and second passage of the bill by the General Assembly. In addition, the Secretary is required to submit the proposed amendment to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth upon second passage.

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

According to the Department of State, it is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000,000 for the proper advertisement of the passage of a Constitutional amendment. Therefore, total costs for advertising upon passage in two consecutive legislation sessions would cost about \$2,000,000. This fiscal note assumes advertising of the first passage of the amendment would occur in fiscal year 2012-13.