

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 386

PRINTER'S NO. 1040

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 3, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Smucker

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Feb. 3, 2011

Reported as amended, April 12, 2011

First consideration, April 12, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, May 9, 2011

Re-reported as committed, June 20, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 386 amends The County Code (August 9, 1955, P.L. 323, No. 130) to provide counties of the second class A or third through eighth classes with the option of abolishing by resolution the office of jury commissioner.

The legislation provides that after review of procedures in effect within the county to ensure that lists of potential jurors are a representative cross section of the community, the governing body of a county of the second class A or third through eighth class may adopt, by a majority vote, a resolution abolishing the office of jury commissioner.

Upon approval of the resolution, the office of jury commissioner shall expire at the completion of the current jury commissioners' terms of office. The resolution shall not be passed in any year in which the office of jury commissioner is on the ballot.

The Act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. With regard to county funds, Senate Bill 386 has no fiscal impact unless a county exercises the option to abolish the office of jury commissioner. Any fiscal impact will depend upon how a county utilizes its jury commissioners compared with how a county chooses to replace the functions now performed by those commissioners. In addition, the legislation specifies that the abolishment of the office shall expire at the completion of the current jury commissioners' terms of office. Therefore, any fiscal impact will not occur prior to the expiration of those terms.

Volume 119 of *The Pennsylvania Manual* was used to determine the salaries of the county jury commissioners. The legislation will not affect every county. However, of the 53 or so counties most likely to be potentially affected, the cumulative average salary of two jury commissioners in each county is calculated at \$18,360. It is believed that a few counties also provide benefits, but most do not.

The data suggests that a county which chooses the option of abolishing the office of jury commissioner will likely realize savings of less than \$20,000 per year, on average. However, to the extent that a county replaces its jury commissioners with some other means to continue the necessary function of jury selection, the savings would be less.