

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 324

PRINTER'S NO. 2110

AMOUNT

\$1.3-\$1.6 Million (each of two sessions)

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 25, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Vogel

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 324 amends Section 9 of Article II, Sections 1, 4, 5, 6, and 17 of Article IV, and Section 7 of Article VI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania to remove references to the position of Lieutenant Governor. Section 9 of Article IV is also amended to specify the Attorney General to serve as Chairman on the Board of Pardons, and replace the Lieutenant Governor in this position. This section also increases the membership of the Board to include a Governor-appointed law enforcement officer. Section 13 of Article IV is amended to specify that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall act in the capacities currently specified for the Lieutenant Governor when acting as the Governor.

The bill also amends Section 16 of Article II to reduce the number of Senatorial Districts from 50 to 45. As amended, the bill also reduces the number of Representative Districts from 203 to 153.

Section 2 of Article V is amended to reduce the number of Supreme Court Justices from seven to five, and to limit the maximum number of the Superior Court Judges to eleven.

To amend the Constitution, the provisions of the bill 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. Section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to publish the proposed amendment in two newspapers in every county in which the newspapers are published after both first and second passage of the legislation by the General Assembly.

If Senate Bill 324 is enacted, it would be the first of the required two passages of the proposed Constitutional referendum to eliminate the position of Lieutenant Governor, reduce the size of the General Assembly, reduce the number of the Supreme Court Justices, and impose a maximum number of Superior Court Judges.

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Upon ratification by the electors, the bill specifies that the General Assembly will enact legislation to implement Section 16 of Article II of the Constitution (related to the reduced number of legislative districts for the Senate and the House of Representatives) so the provisions will apply for the first time to the first session of the General Assembly which begins after the 2020 reapportionment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to publish the proposed amendment in two newspapers in every county in which the newspapers are published after both first and second passage of the legislation by the General Assembly. Based on estimates provided by the Department of State, the enactment of this bill will result in advertising costs to the Commonwealth of between \$1.6 and \$1.9 million for each of the two required publications. If the legislation is immediately passed for the second time in the succeeding session of the General Assembly, it is possible that the total advertising cost of \$3.2 to \$3.8 million could be incurred in the same fiscal year.

The passage of this joint resolution will not result in savings to the Commonwealth in FY 2014-2015.