

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 147

PRINTER NO. 139

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2016-17

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 22, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Maloney

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 147 amends the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by authorizing the General Assembly to allow local taxing authorities to exempt up to 100% of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction.

Currently, Article VIII, §2(b) (vi) of the Constitution provides that the General Assembly may authorize a homestead exclusion which shall not exceed one-half of the median assessed value of all homesteads in a taxing jurisdiction.

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, §1 of the Constitution, and finally be approved by the electorate.

This proposal was introduced as House Bill 125 in the 2013-2014 legislative session but did not receive consideration in the Senate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Under Article XI, §1 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to have the proposed amendment published in two newspapers in every county throughout the Commonwealth, upon the 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.

According to the Department of State, it is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 for the required advertisement of the passage of this Constitutional amendment.