

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 153

PRINTER NO. 3689

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 23, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Knowles

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 153 proposes an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution reducing the size of the General Assembly.

This bill proposes reducing the size of the General Assembly by reducing the number of members of the House of Representatives from 203 to 151.

If passed, this would be the second session in which identical language would have passed the General Assembly, allowing it to appear on the ballot for ratification by the electors.

If approved by the electors, the change would apply to the first session of the General Assembly beginning after the 2020 reapportionment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Article XI, Section 1 requires that legislation proposing to amend the Constitution be passed by the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions, be advertised in two newspapers in each county after each passage and thereafter be approved by the electorate.

The Department of State estimates the cost for each required advertisement of a Constitutional amendment to be approximately \$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000.

The reduction in the number of members of the House of Representatives would take effect in the first session following the 2020 reapportionment. The reduction of 52 members could result in an annual savings of \$13 million - \$16 million accounting for member salary and associated costs.