

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 22

PRINTER NO. 1780

AMOUNT

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

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 22, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Boscola

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 22 is a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution that provides for an Independent Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment and Redistricting Commission (commission) to perform the duties of reapportionment and redistricting.

The commission shall consist of 11 members who have not held or been appointed to federal or state level office in the previous 5 years. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall receive, determine eligibility, and submit to the General Assembly qualified applicants. From the list of eligible applicants, the Governor shall recommend three who are not registered to either of the two largest political parties, to be confirmed by a 2/3 vote of each chamber. The majority and minority party from each chamber shall select two eligible applicants to be confirmed by 2/3 vote of the respective chamber.

The preliminary and final redistricting plans must be approved by at least 7 members, including two from each of the major parties and two from members not associated with the major parties.

The commission must in 90 days following its establishment, produce a preliminary plan and conduct at least 6 public hearings in different regions in the state.

In establishing districts the commission shall:

- Not allow counties to have more senatorial districts than the population allows plus one.
- Not allow counties to have more representative districts than the population allows plus two.
- Have congressional districts as close to ideal population as possible, be compact and contiguous territory, and not divide a county, municipality or ward unless absolutely necessary.
- Not consider the address of any individual, political affiliation of registered voters or previous election results.

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Upon completion of the public hearings the commission shall have 30 days to make corrections, and aggrieved parties shall have the same 30 days to file exceptions to the plan. The commission shall have 30 days from the filing of the exceptions to file a revised plan. The Supreme Court shall hear all appeals, and appeals must be filed within 30 days of the final plan's submission.

If a district does not have a resident elected to the Senate, that district shall elect a senator at the next general election.

If the commission does not file a plan by October 30 of each year ending in one, the commission shall submit to the General Assembly at least two but not more than three maps for congressional, senatorial, and representative districts. The General Assembly shall approve of one map from each category by a 2/3 vote.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Article XI, Section 1, of the Pennsylvania Constitution 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 to \$1,500,000. Costs for advertising the amendment in two consecutive legislative sessions would amount to approximately \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.

The General Assembly appropriates money in the fiscal years leading up to a reapportionment and redistricting, including \$1,000,000 in FY 2017-18 and proposed \$1,000,000 in 2018-19. Travel expenses for the 11 commission members to travel to 6 public hearings around the state, estimated at 300 miles round trip per hearing, can be estimated at \$10,000. Estimating a \$2,500 stipend for each commission member for their participation would cost \$27,500. These costs can be accommodated through the normal operation expenses incurred by the Commission and appropriated for by the General Assembly.