

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 1033

**PRINTER NO.** 2005

**AMOUNT**

FY 2020-21 No Fiscal Impact  
FY 2021-22 \$398,570 First-Year Costs

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 13, 2020

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Gordner

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1033 amends § 911(a) (relating to Courts of Common Pleas) of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by increasing the number of Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in the twentieth and twenty-sixth judicial districts within the Commonwealth.

Currently, the twentieth judicial district, which includes all of Huntingdon County, and the twenty-sixth judicial district, which includes all of Columbia County, has one and two Common Pleas judges, respectively. This legislation increases that number to two and three, respectively.

The legislation provides that the new judgeships added to the twentieth and twenty-sixth judicial districts shall be established on January 3, 2022, and shall be initially filled by election at the 2021 municipal election.

This act shall take effect immediately.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), the current annual cost per Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas is \$319,000, including salary, pension and benefits. This cost does not include the annual county court reimbursement grant, calculated at a statutory rate of \$70,000 per judgeship.

The enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds during the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Commonwealth will be required to fund the additional judgeships for one-half of FY 2021-22 at an estimated cost of \$328,570, assuming a 3% increase in salary, pension and benefits. In addition, costs for the annual county court reimbursement grant program will increase by \$35,000 per county, representing a partial-year grant for the new judgeships.