

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 2

PRINTER NO. 86

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2020-21

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 20, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator K. Ward

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 2 is a Joint Resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide for equality of rights on the basis of race and ethnicity, the termination or extension of a disaster emergency declaration and require action by the General Assembly to extend an emergency declaration beyond twenty-one days.

This legislation proposes to amend Article I by adding Section 29 to prohibit the denial or abridgement of rights on the basis of race and ethnicity. It amends Article III, Section 9 to allow for the passage of a concurrent resolution that does not need to be presented to the Governor for the termination or extension of a disaster emergency declaration. It also amends Article IV by adding Section 20 to require the passage of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly for the Governor to extend an emergency declaration beyond twenty-one days. Upon expiration of the Governor's emergency resolution, the Governor may not declare a new emergency declaration based on the same or similar facts without the passage of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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