

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 457

PRINTER NO. 488

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2021-22

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 19, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 457 proposes amending the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to require the Attorney General to hold an active law license in the Commonwealth.

If the Attorney General is disbarred from the practice of law, the Office of Attorney General will be declared vacant. In circumstances when the Attorney General's license to practice law is suspended, the Attorney General will be suspended from office until the suspension is dissolved or until the next election, and the First Deputy Attorney General, if willing, qualified and able to hold the office, shall serve as the acting Attorney General until the law license of the Attorney General is reinstated or the expiration of the term of the Attorney General, whichever is sooner. If the First Deputy Attorney General is not willing, qualified or able to serve, the Executive Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Law Division, if willing, qualified and able, shall serve as the acting Attorney General.

As a proposed constitutional amendment, the legislation must pass each chamber of the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions, must be published by the Secretary of State after each session and then must be presented to the voters for adoption.

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. Costs for advertising the amendment in two consecutive legislative sessions would amount to approximately \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.