

# FISCAL NOTE

May 3, 2019

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB111	<b>Printer's No:</b>	1630	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Schemel, Paul
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund	See fiscal impact	\$1.3-\$1.5 M

**SUMMARY:** HB 111 is a joint resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution for the purpose of changing and adding provisions related to the selection of justices and judges.

**ANALYSIS:** House Bill 111 requires the Governor to fill vacancies in offices to which he appoints by nominating to the Senate a proper person to fill each vacancy within 90 days from the first day of the vacancy. Then the Senate must act on each executive nomination within 25 legislative days. If the Senate fails to act, the nomination submitted may take office as if the appointment had been consented to by the Senate. Similarly, the Governor must fill vacancies within the offices of Auditor General, State Treasurer, judge, magisterial district judge and any other elected office he/she is authorized to fill.

Further, the bill establishes requirements of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, including but not limited to, establishing an Eastern, Middle and Western judicial district, the number of justices that can be selected for each judicial district, and residency requirements for appointment to the Supreme Court, Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court.

House Bill 111 also requires that the Governor fill vacancies in the office of justice of the Supreme Court and judge of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts by making necessary appointments. The bill further outlines appointment criteria and extends the term length for a Governor's appointee from 24 months to 48 months.

Finally, the bill establishes an independent board within the Executive Department, known as the Appellate Court Nominating Commission, and outlines membership requirements and responsibilities. The board must be composed of 13 members; five appointed by the Governor, two appointed by each of the majority leaders in both the House and Senate and two appointed by the each of the minority leaders of the House and Senate.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** House Bill 111 will cost \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million over the course of two consecutive legislative sessions to comply with advertising requirements established in Section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.