

# FISCAL NOTE

February 1, 2021

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB 38	<b>Printer's No:</b>	105	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Diamond (R)
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

<b>Fund (s)</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

**SUMMARY:** This bill amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to organize the membership of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, and Commonwealth Court into judicial districts.

**ANALYSIS:** HB 196 divides the state into districts as prescribed by law for the election of judges to the Supreme Court, Superior Court, and Commonwealth Court.

Criteria for the establishment of each judicial district require that every resident shall have equal representation on a court, each judicial district shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable, and no county, city or municipality may be divided unless absolutely necessary.

Judicial districts shall be realigned based on the federal decennial census.

This bill also establishes a residency requirement for all judges of one year prior to election or appointment and continuing through the term of office.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Constitutional amendments carry a cost of \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million in two consecutive legislative sessions to comply with advertising requirements of Section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

One round of advertising has already been incurred when this proposed amendment was approved by the legislature in the 2019-2020 session. The second round of advertising would be incurred as early as Fiscal Year 2020-21 or as late as Fiscal Year 2022-23 based on timing of passage.