

FISCAL NOTE

January 27, 2021

Bill No:	HB 55	Printer's No:	34	Sponsor:	Grove, Seth (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2020-21	2021-22
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

SUMMARY: This bill proposes three amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

ANALYSIS: HB 55 proposes three separate and distinct amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

- Prohibits denial or abridgement of equality because of race or ethnicity
- Removes the requirement of the governor's signature for approval of termination or extension of a disaster emergency declaration
- Limits disaster emergency declarations declared by the governor to 21 days unless extended by the General Assembly

Constitutional amendments must be passed in two consecutive legislative sessions and approved by the voters through referendum. HB 55 would be the second passage for these amendments.

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. Each proposed amendment would incur these costs separately and distinctly, with a total fiscal impact of \$3.9 million to \$4.5 million.

Limiting disaster emergency declarations to 21 days and removing the requirement for the governor's approval for disaster terminations would also conflict with future governor's policy and fiscal needs during disasters. Pennsylvania law indicates the state emergency operations plan is activated when the governor issues an emergency proclamation. If a declared emergency is ended, the governor would be unable to certify the emergency operations plan to receive federal funding assistance.