

## FISCAL NOTE

October 19, 2017

<b>Bill No:</b>	SB 222	<b>Printer's No:</b>	1264	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Greenleaf (R)
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

**SUMMARY:** This bill would amend Title 42 (Judiciary) to add additional judgeships to the Pennsylvania Courts of Common Pleas and reauthorize the senior judge operational support grant program.

**ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 222 would add eight additional judgeships to the Pennsylvania Courts of Common Pleas, including the following:

Judicial District	Number of Judgeships
Seventh – Bucks County	2
Ninth – Cumberland County	1
Twenty-Second – Wayne County	1
Twenty-Seventh – Washington County	1
Thirty-Second – Delaware County	1
Thirty-Eighth – Montgomery County	1
Forty-Third – Monroe County	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

The new judgeship for the ninth judicial district would be established on January 6, 2020 and would be filled by the 2019 municipal election. The new judgeship for the twenty-second judicial district would be established on January 3, 2022 and would be filled by the 2021 municipal election.

Additionally, the bill would authorize the Senior Judge Operational Support Grant Program, which expired on June 30, 2017. The program would be authorized at the existing reimbursement rates to provide financial assistance to counties for the judicial administration for facilities and staff for the senior judges assigned to the court of common pleas indefinitely.

This act would be effective immediately upon passage.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Judiciary would incur a cost of \$148,150 in personnel costs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 for the new judgeship in the ninth judicial district. Judiciary would also incur an annualized cost of \$296,300 for the ninth district judgeship and \$148,150 in personnel costs for the new judgeship in the twenty-second judicial district in FY 2021-22. The estimated costs for the remaining six new judgeships, as defined under this act is undetermined at this time, as

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counties may opt to immediately fill the new judgeships or leave the new positions vacant until the next applicable judicial election.

<b>Implementation Costs</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>
Personnel Costs for Ninth District Judgeship	\$148,150	\$296,300
Personnel Costs for Twenty-Second District Judgeship	-	\$148,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$148,150</b>	<b>\$444,450</b>

The authorization of the Senior Judge Operational Program would have no adverse fiscal impact on the commonwealth. The FY 2017-18 General Appropriations Act funded the Senior Judge Operational Grants Program at \$1,375,000.