

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 222 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, MCGARRIGLE
AND KILLION, JANUARY 26, 2017

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OCTOBER 17, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and
3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for
4 courts of common pleas; AND, IN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF <--
5 PENNSYLVANIA COURTS, PROVIDING FOR SENIOR JUDGE OPERATIONAL
6 SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 911(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

11 § 911. Courts of common pleas.

12 (a) General rule.--There shall be one court of common pleas
13 for each judicial district of this Commonwealth consisting of
14 the following number of judges:

	Number of
Judicial District	Judges
17 First	93
18 Second	15

1	Third	9
2	Fourth	1
3	Fifth	43
4	Sixth	9
5	Seventh	[13] <u>15</u>
6	Eighth	3
7	Ninth	[6] <u>7</u>
8	Tenth	11
9	Eleventh	10
10	Twelfth	10
11	Thirteenth	2
12	Fourteenth	5
13	Fifteenth	14
14	Sixteenth	3
15	Seventeenth	2
16	Eighteenth	1
17	Nineteenth	15
18	Twentieth	1
19	Twenty-first	6
20	Twenty-second	[1] <u>2</u>
21	Twenty-third	13
22	Twenty-fourth	5
23	Twenty-fifth	2
24	Twenty-sixth	2
25	Twenty-seventh	[6] <u>7</u>
26	Twenty-eighth	2
27	Twenty-ninth	5
28	Thirtieth	3
29	Thirty-first	10
30	Thirty-second	[20] <u>21</u>

1	Thirty-third	2
2	Thirty-fourth	1
3	Thirty-fifth	4
4	Thirty-sixth	7
5	Thirty-seventh	2
6	Thirty-eighth	[23] <u>24</u>
7	Thirty-ninth	5
8	Fortieth	3
9	Forty-first	2
10	Forty-second	2
11	Forty-third	[6] <u>7</u>
12	Forty-fourth	1
13	Forty-fifth	9
14	Forty-sixth	2
15	Forty-seventh	5
16	Forty-eighth	2
17	Forty-ninth	4
18	Fiftieth	6
19	Fifty-first	4
20	Fifty-second	4
21	Fifty-third	4
22	Fifty-fourth	1
23	Fifty-fifth	1
24	Fifty-sixth	3
25	Fifty-seventh	2
26	Fifty-eighth	2
27	Fifty-ninth	1
28	Sixtieth	2

29 * * *

30 ~~Section 2. The additional judgeship added to the 22nd~~

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1 ~~Judicial District by the amendment of 42 Pa.C.S. § 911(a) shall~~
2 ~~be established on January 2, 2022, and shall be initially filled~~
3 ~~by election at the 2021 municipal election.~~

4 SECTION 2. TITLE 42 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ: <--

5 § 1906.1. SENIOR JUDGE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.

6 (A) CONTINUATION.--THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF PENNSYLVANIA
7 SHALL CONTINUE THE PROGRAM TO DEFRAY THE COSTS IMPOSED ON
8 COUNTIES BY THE RULES OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION FOR FACILITIES
9 AND STAFF FOR SENIOR JUDGES ASSIGNED TO THE COURTS OF COMMON
10 PLEAS.

11 (B) AVAILABILITY.--GRANTS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
12 COUNTIES BASED ON THE LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY A
13 COUNTY TO:

14 (1) SENIOR JUDGES FORMERLY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN
15 WHICH THE COUNTY IS SITUATED WHO ARE REGULARLY OR
16 PERIODICALLY ASSIGNED IN THAT COUNTY OR WHO ARE ASSIGNED
17 UNDER SECTION 4544 (RELATING TO CONVENING MULTICOUNTY
18 INVESTIGATING GRAND JURY).

19 (2) VISITING SENIOR JUDGES.

20 (C) PURPOSE.--GRANTS SHALL REIMBURSE COUNTIES FOR
21 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY DURING THE PRECEDING
22 CALENDAR YEAR. GRANTS SHALL BE CALCULATED BASED ON USE OF
23 JUDICIAL CHAMBERS, UTILIZATION OF THE SERVICES OF A LAW CLERK
24 AND UTILIZATION OF THE SERVICES OF A SECRETARY, WHICH CHAMBERS
25 OR SERVICES ARE DEEMED ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE BY THE
26 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

27 (1) USE OF JUDICIAL CHAMBERS SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT THE
28 RATE OF \$60 PER DAY, BILLABLE IN ONE-HALF-DAY INCREMENTS.

29 (2) UTILIZATION OF SERVICES OF A LAW CLERK SHALL BE
30 REIMBURSED AT \$20 PER HOUR.

1 (3) UTILIZATION OF SERVICES OF A SECRETARY SHALL BE
2 REIMBURSED AT \$12 PER HOUR.

3 (D) REIMBURSEMENT.--

4 (1) COUNTIES SHALL BE REIMBURSED UPON TIMELY APPLICATION
5 BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR, IN THE ABSENCE OF A BOARD
6 OF COMMISSIONERS, THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OR,
7 IN THE CASE OF A COUNTY WHICH IS COTERMINOUS WITH A CITY OF
8 THE FIRST CLASS, THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF THE FIRST CLASS.

9 (2) THE APPLICATION SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY THE PRESIDENT
10 JUDGE OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE COUNTY IS
11 SITUATED, SHALL INCLUDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED
12 BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.

13 (3) THE DUE DATES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATIONAL
14 SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING EACH CALENDAR YEAR SHALL BE
15 ESTABLISHED BY THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

16 (E) MINIMUM STANDARDS.--THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE SHALL SET
17 FORTH MINIMUM STANDARDS REGARDING ADEQUACY, APPROPRIATENESS AND
18 QUALITY OF JUDICIAL CHAMBERS AND SERVICES REQUIRED TO QUALIFY
19 FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

20 (F) REDUCTION.--IN THE EVENT THAT THE TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT
21 QUALIFYING FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY CALENDAR YEAR EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT
22 APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE COURT
23 ADMINISTRATOR OF PENNSYLVANIA SHALL PROPORTIONALLY REDUCE THE
24 GRANT FOR EACH COUNTY SO THAT THE TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS DOES NOT
25 EXCEED THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED.

26 (G) LIMIT ON GRANT AMOUNT.--NO COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE MORE
27 THAN 20% OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SENIOR JUDGE OPERATIONAL
28 SUPPORT GRANTS IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.

29 (H) REPORT.--NOT LATER THAN 60 DAYS FOLLOWING PAYMENT OF
30 GRANTS FOR ANY YEAR, THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF PENNSYLVANIA

1 SHALL MAKE A REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE
2 SENATE AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES SETTING FORTH THE PAYMENTS MADE TO COUNTIES AND
4 THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

5 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY: <--

6 (1) THE NEW JUDGESHIP FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
7 ADDED BY THE AMENDMENT OF 42 PA.C.S. § 911(A) SHALL BE
8 ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 6, 2020, AND SHALL BE INITIALLY FILLED
9 BY ELECTION AT THE 2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

10 (2) THE NEW JUDGESHIP FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL
11 DISTRICT ADDED BY THE AMENDMENT OF 42 PA.C.S. § 911(A) SHALL
12 BE ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 3, 2022, AND SHALL BE INITIALLY
13 FILLED BY ELECTION AT THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

14 (3) THE ADDITION OF 42 PA.C.S. § 1906.1 SHALL APPLY <--
15 RETROACTIVELY TO JULY 1, 2017.

16 Section ~~3~~ 4. This act shall take effect immediately. <--