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Office

S.B. 157
(1_136_3221)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 157's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In Senate Judiciary

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Lang

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Keegan Kennedy, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- There is likely to be a net minimal annual fiscal effect on local trial courts. The bill may: (1) reduce the number of cases filed in municipal, county, and common pleas courts with subject matter jurisdiction over civil actions, (2) result in a faster disposition of such matters, or (3) result in the filing of civil actions sooner than otherwise may have been the case under current law.

Detailed Analysis

The bill will likely have a minimal fiscal effect on local trial courts. It shortens the period of limitations for commencing a civil action as follows: (1) on specialty or an agreement, contract, or promise in writing from six to four years, and (2) on a contract not in writing from four to two years.¹ An action upon a specialty or an agreement, contract, or promise in writing may be brought within a period specified within the specialty or agreement, contract, or promise in writing, subject to the exceptions, but the specified period cannot exceed 30 years from the accrual of the date of the cause of action.

To the extent the bill creates any fiscal effect, it would involve the volume of actions before the common pleas, municipal, and county courts with jurisdiction over civil actions. By reducing the time frame in which actions must be brought, it is possible that some cases may not get filed, or if filed dismissed, because the plaintiff(s) allowed the period of limitations to expire.

¹ Certain exceptions are provided under current law including an action against the state or a state agency for failure to make any distribution or other payment, Consumer Sales Practices Act actions, and those involving commercial paper. A complete list of exceptions is outlined in the [LSC bill analysis](#).

The ability for the courts to dismiss cases filed after the period of limitations may create a savings effect, the magnitude of which is not readily measurable.