

## **COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill:** Senate Bill 333

**Printer's No.:** 311

**Sponsor:** Senator Pileggi

**Prepared by:** Gregg Warner

**Synopsis:** This joint resolution proposes integrated amendments to the State constitution eliminating the Traffic Court of Philadelphia.

**Summary:** The joint resolution proposes amendments to various sections of Article V relating to the Unified Judicial System. The amendments remove mention of the Philadelphia traffic court from sections 1, 6, 10, 12 and 15. References to the Municipal Court of Philadelphia remain.

### **Procedure**

As a proposed constitutional amendment, this legislation must pass each house of the General Assembly in two separate sessions and then must be presented to the voters for adoption. Passage of this resolution would be the first passage.

**Background:** No other county has a separate traffic court. Philadelphia currently has 7 traffic court judges. They are each paid a salary of \$91,052.

### **Investigations**

According to the sponsor "Recently, an investigative report commissioned by the state Supreme Court concluded that the Philadelphia Traffic Court has 'two tracks of justice – one for the connected and another for the unwitting general public.'"

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, federal law enforcement officials indicted nine current and former Philadelphia traffic court judges and three others for ticket fixing.