

**Comments of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts in
opposition to HB 196**

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts (PMC) opposes H.B. 196, a Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to organize judicial elections by multiple districts and further providing for residency requirements. Under Rep. Diamond's proposal, the state would be broken into nine Commonwealth Court districts, 15 Superior Court districts and seven Supreme Court districts.

PMC strongly believes that partisan elections are damaging to the integrity of the judiciary for the reasons spelled out in our support of HB 111 previously submitted to the Committee. This bill would not only retain those harmful partisan elections, but would render them even more pernicious. Of principal concern here is the magnification of appellate justices and judges feeling obligated to represent the interests only of those who voted for them and/or funded their campaigns, and not to bring an independent mindset to the adjudication of statewide issues.

PMC urges you to vote against HB 196 and the continuation of politicized, money-fueled partisan elections and to support HB 111 to bring a more reasonable process of judicial selection to Pennsylvania.