



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 5069	Introduced on February 8, 2024
Author:	Jordan	
Subject:	Probate Judge Qualifications	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	March 6, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill modifies the requirements for a probate court judge for counties with a population of 90,000 or more. This includes that the judge must be least twenty-five years old upon election and be a licensed attorney in good standing in the State. The bill specifies that these requirements do not apply to probate court judges who are serving in office on or before the effective date of this bill. This bill takes effect upon approval of the Governor.

This bill will have no local expenditure impact as Judicial anticipates that the modified qualification requirements for probate court judges elected after the effective date of this bill will not fiscally or operationally impact the probate courts.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 8, 2024

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill modifies requirements for a probate court judge for counties with a population of 90,000 or more. This includes that the judge must be least twenty-five years old upon election and be a licensed attorney in good standing in the State. The bill specifies that these requirements do not apply to probate court judges who are serving in office on or before the effective date of this bill. This bill takes effect upon approval of the Governor.

Currently, probate judges are elected by the qualified electors of the respective county for a term of four years. A probate judge must be a citizen of the United States who is at least twenty-one years old, is a qualified elector in the county in which he is a judge and has a four-year bachelor's degree or four years' experience as an employee in a probate judge's office. This bill adds additional requirements for probate judges serving counties with a population of 90,000 or more.

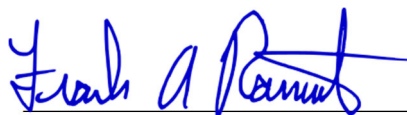
For reference, the following table lists the counties with populations of 90,000 or more according to the United States Census Bureau’s 2022 population estimates, published in 2023.

County	2022 Population Estimate
Sumter	104,012
Lancaster	104,577
Pickens	133,462
Florence	136,721
Dorchester	166,133
Aiken	174,150
Beaufort	196,371
Anderson	209,581
Berkeley	245,117
York	294,248
Lexington	304,797
Spartanburg	345,831
Horry	383,101
Charleston	419,279
Richland	421,566
Greenville	547,950

This bill will have no local expenditure impact as Judicial anticipates that the modified qualification requirements for probate court judges elected after the effective date of this bill will not fiscally or operationally impact the probate courts.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director