



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0118 Introduced on January 10, 2017
Author: Campsen
Subject: Civil Jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: February 7, 2017

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
State Expenditure		
General Fund	Undetermined	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	Undetermined	\$0
Local Revenue	Undetermined	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

The expenditure impact of this bill on the General Fund, Federal Funds, and Other Funds cannot be determined due to the lack of existing data on the number of cases heard in the common pleas and magistrates courts according to the amount in controversy.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 10, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill increases the civil jurisdiction of the magistrates court from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and requires that, except for landlord and tenant cases, any case with an amount in controversy equaling or exceeding \$5,000 must be ordered for mandatory mediation.

Judicial Department. The department reports that during FY 2015-16, there were 87,421 cases filed in common pleas courts and 211,308 civil cases filed in magistrates courts. There is no data as to how many of the cases filed in common pleas court dealt with an amount between \$7,500 and \$10,000, however. As such, neither the number of cases that would now be heard in magistrates court nor the extent of any future cost savings to the General Fund can be determined.

State Revenue

Currently, fees, costs, and assessments for civil actions filed in magistrate court and circuit court are divided among the General Fund, specified state agencies and programs, and the counties. Because data is not available to estimate the change in filings between magistrate court and

circuit court that would occur as a result of this bill, the bill's impact on the General Fund and Other Funds is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

Local government expenditures may be affected by an increase in magistrate court jurisdiction and by mandatory mediation. However, data is not available to determine the number of cases filed in common pleas court with an amount in controversy exceeding \$7,000 up to \$10,000 that could be heard in magistrate court, or the number of cases in magistrate court with an amount in controversy equaling or exceeding \$5,000 that would be handled through mandatory mediation. Consequently, the expenditure impact on local government is undetermined.

Local Revenue

Currently, fees, costs, and assessments for civil actions filed in magistrate court and circuit court are divided among the General Fund, specified state agencies and programs, and the counties. Because data is not available to estimate the change in filings between magistrate court and circuit court that would occur as a result of this bill, the bill's impact on local government revenue is undetermined.