



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	H. 4974	Introduced on January 21, 2020
Author:	Lucas	
Subject:	Increase Number of at-large Circuit Court Judges	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner and Miller	
Impact Date:	February 6, 2020	

Fiscal Impact Summary

The Senate and House of Representatives indicate that responsibilities required by this bill will be handled within their current resources and is not expected to have an expenditure impact.

The Judicial Department reports the total expenditure impact of the bill at full implementation would be \$1,551,342 in General Funds with \$57,000 being nonrecurring.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 21, 2020

State Expenditure

This bill increases the number of at-large circuit court judges in the state from sixteen to seventeen and increases the number of at-large family court judges from eight to ten. Once funding for the three additional judges is provided in the general appropriations act, the Judicial Merit Selection Commission will commence the process of nominating candidates for new judicial offices for election by the General Assembly. The act becomes effective upon approval of the Governor.

The Senate. The bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. Any expenses associated with revisions to forms and policies can be managed within current appropriations of the Senate.

House of Representatives. The bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. Any expenses associated with revisions to forms and policies can be managed within current appropriations of the Senate.

Judicial Department. This bill increases the number of at-large circuit court judge seats from sixteen to seventeen and increases the number of at-large family court judge seats from eight to ten. In addition to hiring the three new judges, the department would need to hire one law clerk, three administrative assistants, and three court reporters, and it would incur additional recurring and non-recurring operating costs. The recurring personnel costs would be \$1,414,342; the recurring operating costs would be \$80,000 (judges' monthly allowance, travel for court rotation, supplies, and general operating needs/automation); and the non-recurring operating costs would be \$57,000 (office furniture, equipment, and automation). The total expenditure impact of the bill would be \$1,551,342 (rounded) in General Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure and Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director