



**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.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	S. 0178	Introduced on January 10, 2023
<b>Author:</b>	Climer	
<b>Subject:</b>	JMSC Reform	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate Judiciary	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Miller	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	January 26, 2024	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill modifies the Judicial Merit Selection Commission's (JMSC) membership to include the Governor, or his designee, and six people from the general public and requires the JMSC to report all qualified judicial candidates to the General Assembly. This bill also specifies no legislator may represent a client for a fee in a court, if the legislator voted for the judge in the twelve months prior for any case or judicial vote after January 1, 2023.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for the House or Representatives (House) or the Senate as any savings that may arrived from the restructuring of the JMSC will be reallocated to other needs. Additionally, we anticipate that the Governor's Office can manage any additional expenses due to this bill within existing appropriations. We will update this fiscal impact statement if we receive information to the contrary.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 10, 2023**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill modifies the JMSC's membership to include the Governor, or his designee, and six people from the general public and requires the JMSC to report all qualified judicial candidates to the General Assembly. This bill also adds that no legislator may represent a client for a fee in a court, if the legislator voted for the judge in the twelve months prior for any case or judicial vote after January 1, 2023.

Currently, the ten member JMSC includes five members appointed through the House and five members appointed through the Senate. Also, there is currently no limitation on legislators appearing before a judge.

**Senate and House of Representatives.** This bill may result in a minimal expenditure savings for the House and Senate due to the change in the membership of the JMSC. The bodies anticipate that any savings will be reallocated for other needs and, therefore, will have no expenditure impact for the House or the Senate.

**Governor's Office.** This bill requires the Governor, or his designee, to serve on the JMSC and to appoint all other members. We anticipate that the Governor's Office can manage any additional expenses due to this bill within existing appropriations. We will update this fiscal impact statement if we receive information to the contrary.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director