



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. 5133	Introduced on February 10, 2026
Subject:	Circuit Solicitors Qualifications Commission	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	February 25, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Circuit Solicitors' Qualifications Commission, which will consist of eight members appointed by the Governor. The commission will be divided into a five-member investigative panel and a three-member hearing panel. The investigative panel is responsible for the investigation of alleged conduct constituting grounds for discipline as specified in this bill, among other responsibilities. The hearing panel is responsible for adjudicating formal charges filed by the investigative panel, among other responsibilities. The eight commissioners will serve without compensation but may receive a daily expense allowance plus either reimbursement for actual travel expenses or mileage. These expenses must be paid from funds appropriated or otherwise available to the commission. Further, the investigative panel is responsible for selecting an attorney in good standing with the South Carolina Bar to serve as the director of the commission and is authorized to employ additional staff as the commission deems necessary to carry out its duties.

This bill will result in an undetermined increase in expenses for the creation of the Circuit Solicitors' Qualifications Commission. Expenses will include salary and fringe for the director of the commission and any additional staff, office equipment, and rent for office space, among other expenses. Funding for these expenses will be at the discretion of the General Assembly.

This bill requires the Governor to appoint the members of the new commission. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination (CPC) may recommend to the Governor a list of attorneys to be considered to serve and assist the new commission with the promulgations of standards of conduct among other items. Further, the Attorney General or an assistant attorney general may be appointed to serve on the commission. The Office of the Governor, the Office of the Attorney General, and CPC report that the bill will have no expenditure impact. All three entities anticipate being able to manage the additional responsibilities of this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 10, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill creates the Circuit Solicitors' Qualifications Commission, which will consist of eight members appointed by the Governor. The commission will be divided into a five-member

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State Revenue

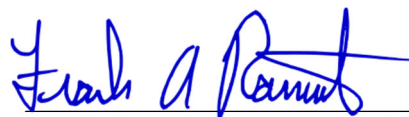
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director