



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: Record All Criminal Jury Trial Proceedings.
Bill Number: House Bill 668 (First Edition)
Sponsor(s): Representatives Richardson, Faircloth, and Hardister

SUMMARY TABLE

	FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B.668, V.1				
	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
State Impact					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	262,500.0	359,234.2	368,592.3	377,454.6	385,790.2
General Fund Impact	(262,500.0)	(359,234.2)	(368,592.3)	(377,454.6)	(385,790.2)
NET STATE IMPACT	(\$262,500.0)	(\$359,234.2)	(\$368,592.3)	(\$377,454.6)	(\$385,790.2)

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Section 1 of the bill would require the following superior court jury trial proceedings to be recorded by a reporter: 1) selection of the jury in noncapital cases; 2) opening statements and final arguments of counsel to the jury; and 3) arguments of counsel on questions of law. Fiscal Research finds this requirement would increase transcription costs by \$350,000 recurring.

The bill would be effective October 1, 2021 and applies to proceedings occurring on or after that date. Fiscal Research has prorated the costs in the table above for FY 2021-22 to account for the effective date. Figures have been adjusted for inflation based on projections of the Personal Consumption Expenditures Index (Moody's Analytics-December 2020).

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Section 1 of the bill would require the following superior court jury trial proceedings to be recorded by a reporter: 1) selection of the jury in noncapital cases; 2) opening statements and final arguments of counsel to the jury; and 3) arguments of counsel on questions of law. This requirement may add an additional 250 pages per case and impact 700 cases, resulting in 175,000 additional pages of transcription. At the current cost of \$2 per page, Fiscal Research finds the additional recording would cost \$350,000 annually.

Fiscal Research is unable to estimate whether this bill would have additional fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts or Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS). IDS noted the availability of a transcript could save time by providing necessary information that currently

require consultations. However, Fiscal Research is unable to estimate the frequency of such instances and any potential time savings.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS; INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS

This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

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