



# NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

## Legislative Fiscal Note

**Short Title:** 2021 AOC Legislative Changes.-AB  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 255 (Third Edition)  
**Sponsor(s):** Senators Britt and Daniel

### SUMMARY TABLE

#### FISCAL IMPACT OF S.B.255, V.3

	<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>
<b>State Impact</b>					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General Fund Impact</b>	<b>No Fiscal Impact</b>				

<b>NET STATE IMPACT</b>	<b>No Fiscal Impact</b>				
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### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

The PCS makes various changes to legislation addressing the operations of the judicial branch. Fiscal Research Division (FRD) estimates no fiscal impact to the State from the changes in this PCS.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

Section 1 of the bill addresses jury instructions and judicial assignment related to medical malpractice cases before the court. Fiscal Research Division (FRD) finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 2 of the bill adjusts the master jury list for jury duty in a county for calendar years 2022 and 2023. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 3 of the bill clarifies various court procedures related to the enforcement of judgments. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 4 of the bill increases the size of the Dispute Resolution Commission and provides that members of the Commission and its employees are immune from civil suit for conduct undertaken in the course of their official duties. FRD finds that any fiscal impact from these changes can be absorbed within the existing budget for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Section 5 of the bill addresses alternate members of the Judicial Standards Commission and makes various technical changes. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 6 of the bill clarifies the order for arrest for failure to appear following receipt of a criminal summons. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 7 of the bill clarifies exceptions to court pleas. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 8 of the bill clarifies time allowed for a defendant appellant to make rental payments under a residential rental agreement. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 9 of the bill allows certain court proceedings to be conducted by audio and video transmissions. FRD finds that any fiscal impact from these changes can be absorbed within AOC's existing budget.

Section 10 of the bill modifies various provisions allowing for remote or digital court proceedings. FRD finds that any fiscal impact from these changes can be absorbed within AOC's existing budget.

Section 11 of the bill expands the ability of the Chief Justice to assign emergency judges to hold regular or special sessions of the court. FRD finds that any fiscal impact from these changes can be absorbed within AOC's existing budget.

Section 12 of the bill allows for mediated settlement agreements to be signed by the designees of the parties involved. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 13 of the bill directs AOC to develop rules of conduct for magistrates. FRD finds that any fiscal impact from these changes can be absorbed within AOC's existing budget.

Section 14 of the bill clarifies the duties of the document management shop of the Court of Appeals. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 15 of the bill addresses the application of funds and proceeds paid to the clerk of superior court by the sheriff of a county. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 16 of the bill clarifies the process for noticing expunction orders. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 17 of the bill addresses service of motions or proof of such service. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

Section 18 of the bill creates new G.S. 7A-98 addressing declarations under penalty of perjury. FRD finds no fiscal impact to the State from this Section.

## **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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N/A.

## **DATA SOURCES**

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THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## **LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

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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**

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

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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William Childs

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY**

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June 2, 2021



**Signed copy located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**