



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2019

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: To Increase Jury Duty Rate of Pay.
Bill Number: House Bill 332 (First Edition)
Sponsor(s): Representative Floyd

SUMMARY TABLE

FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B. 332, V.1 (\$ in millions)					
	<u>FY 2019-20</u>	<u>FY 2020-21</u>	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
State Impact					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
General Fund Impact	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)
NET STATE IMPACT	(\$2.1)	(\$2.1)	(\$2.1)	(\$2.1)	(\$2.1)

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Fiscal Research estimates that the costs to AOC would be \$2,097,409 annually from the changes in this bill, assuming a standard range of days served over a similar number of jurors as in FY 2017-18.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Section 1 of the bill would amend G.S. 7A-312(a) to increase the rate of pay for jurors from \$12 to \$20 for the first day of service, from \$20 to \$30 for each day after that, and from \$40 to \$50 for each day in excess of five days. The section would also increase the rate of pay for grand jurors from \$20 to \$30.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) estimates jury costs based on an estimated empaneled jury pool of 30 for the first day and a 12-person jury plus two alternates for subsequent days. For criminal cases, jury costs come to \$360 per day for the first day, \$280 per day for the second through the fifth, and \$560 per day for service beyond five days. Grand jurors are paid \$20 per day, regardless of the number of days served.

The changes in this bill would increase criminal case jury costs to \$600 for day one, \$420 for days two to five, and \$700 for days over five. Grand jurors would be paid \$30 per day.

In FY 2017-18, AOC paid 155,679 individuals to serve as jurors at an average cost of \$24.67 per person. As this bill would increase the average pay by 54.6%, if the same number of individuals serve as jurors going forward, the average pay would be \$38.14 per person. This leads to an annual increase in costs of \$2,097,409 to AOC.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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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March 21, 2019



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