

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. NO.: 2996-01
BILL NO.: SB 601
SUBJECT: Judges; St. Louis County
TYPE: Original
DATE: February 11, 2000

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
General Revenue	0\$ to (\$66,309)	\$0 to (\$81,559)	\$0 to (\$83,598)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	\$0 to (\$66,309)	\$0 to (\$81,559)	\$0 to (\$83,598)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Attorney General, Office of Prosecution Services,** and the **Office of the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney** assume the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact to their agencies.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator (CTS)** indicated there are 13 associate circuit judges in St. Louis County, the 21st Judicial Circuit. The proposed legislation provides that the next five vacancies in associate circuit judgeships occurring after August 28, 2000 would be replaced with circuit judges. Vacancies occur when judges resign, retire, are not retained, or die. Thus, it is difficult to predict when vacancies will occur. CTS would be responsible for the difference in salary (currently \$87,235 for associates and \$98,947 for circuit judges or \$11,712). Since judicial salaries are above the social security cap and there would be no change in health insurance costs, the cost of fringe benefits on judicial salaries will be limited to any incremental retirement costs. CTS would be responsible for the salary of a court reporter authorized to circuit judges (per Section 485.040) at annual salary of \$46,706 each plus fringe benefits.

Oversight assumes it would be conceivable for a vacancy to occur at any time. The first scheduled vacancy in associate circuit judgeships to occur after August 28, 2000, would be in FY 2008 (mandatory retirement at age 70); however, unscheduled vacancies could occur at any time. For purposes of this fiscal note, Oversight has ranged the costs from zero to one vacancy for each fiscal year.

Officials from the **Office of the Circuit Clerk of St. Louis County** indicated the St. Louis County government would incur expenses for additional space needed for the additional court reporters. The amount of these expenses are indeterminable.

Oversight assumes this proposal could result in minimal fiscal impact for the 21st Judicial Circuit, as the office space, equipment, and operating costs for the court reporters would be local expenses. However, Oversight assumes these costs would be minimal and could be absorbed with existing resources.

FISCAL IMPACT - State Government

FY 2001
(10 Mo.)

FY 2002

FY 2003

GENERAL REVENUE FUND

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
<u>Cost -</u>			
Personal Service	\$0 to (\$48,682)	\$0 to (\$59,879)	\$0 to (\$61,376)
Fringe Benefits	<u>\$0 to (\$17,627)</u>	<u>\$0 to (\$21,680)</u>	<u>\$0 to (\$22,222)</u>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON
 GENERAL REVENUE FUND** \$0 to (\$66,309) \$0 to (\$81,559) \$0 to (\$83,598)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation reclassifies five associate circuit judgeships to circuit judges in St. Louis County, the 21st Judicial Circuit, as vacancies occur in the associate judge positions.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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Office of the Attorney General
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of Prosecution Services
State Public Defender
Clerk of the St. Louis County Circuit Court
Office of the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Jarrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeanne Jarrett, CPA

Director

February 11, 2000