

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 186 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Increase Uniform Juror Fees

SPONSOR(S): Representatives McGee and LaRoque

	FISCAL IMPACT				
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
GENERAL FUND					
EXPENDITURES					
Judicial Branch	\$1,208,913	\$1,208,913	\$1,208,913	\$1,208,913	\$1,208,913
POSITIONS:	-	-	-	-	-
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Administrative Office of the Courts, County Governments					
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005					

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 186 would raise fees paid to jurors for daily service in the courtroom. Currently, jurors are paid \$12 per day up to five days of service within any 24-month period, but for days over five, jurors are paid \$30 per day. Under HB 186, a juror would be paid \$12 on the first day of service, \$20 on days two through five, and \$40 for days over six. Another change in the bill is that grand jurors would be paid at the same rate as petit jurors.

This bill also requires the county to reimburse jurors for any parking expenses while performing jury duty. This bill is effective on July 1, 2005.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The Administrative Office of the Courts can provide data on how many days jurors served for fiscal year 2003-04, and can use this data to project the cost of this bill. The counts of days are displayed in the table on the next page.

Jury Costs and Days Served				
	Current Cost	Proposed	Est. Days	NEW COST
Day 1	\$12	\$12	91,150	\$1,093,800
Day 2-5	\$12	\$20	149,505	\$2,990,100
Day 6--	\$30	\$40	11,602	\$464,080
Grand Jury	\$12	\$12/\$20/\$40	20,970	\$654,480
			273,227	\$5,202,460

The current appropriation for jury service is \$3.9 million, so the impact on the general fund for this bill would be \$1.2 million.

The bill also requires counties to reimburse jurors for the cost of parking while they are performing jury duty. Of course, this section of the bill does not affect state appropriations. In some counties, parking is available free at courthouses, but in others the county or other private parking provider will charge the juror per hour or per day for parking. Under this bill, counties that do not already have free parking at the courthouse would be required to reimburse the juror for any parking fees, or would otherwise need to provide free parking to anyone performing jury duty.

SOURCES OF DATA: Administrative Office of the Courts

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices