



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 3696	Signed by Governor on June 17, 2022
Author:	Lucas	
Subject:	Number of Judges in Certain Circuits Increased	
Requestor:	House of Representatives	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	August 8, 2022	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill increases the number of circuit court judges and family court judges elected in South Carolina by four and three, respectively. Judicial indicates that the General Fund expenditure impact for these seven new judges and their associated staff and operating expenses will be \$3,943,808 in the first year of implementation and \$3,842,808 each year thereafter.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on June 17, 2022

State Expenditure

This bill increases the number of circuit court judges and family court judges elected in South Carolina. Currently, there are a total of thirty-three circuit court judges and fifty-two family court judges elected from the state's existing sixteen judicial circuits. The bill expands the number of circuit court judges by four to thirty-seven by requiring one additional circuit court judge to be elected from the second (increasing from one to two), ninth (increasing from three to four), fourteenth (increasing from two to three), and fifteenth (increasing from two to three) judicial circuits. The bill also expands the number of family court judges by three to fifty-five by requiring one additional family court judge to be elected from the first (increasing from three to four), seventh (increasing from three to four), and sixteenth (increasing from two to three) judicial circuits.

Judicial. This bill, which increases both the number of circuit court and family court judges elected from the state's sixteen judicial circuits, would expand personnel needs in the first, second, seventh, ninth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth judicial circuits. This will require Judicial to hire, in addition to the seven new judges, four law clerks, seven administrative assistants, and seven court reporters for a total of twenty-five new FTEs. In addition, Judicial will need funding to cover expanded operating expenses. Judicial anticipates these needs will result in a recurring General Fund expenditure impact of \$3,652,808 to cover the new positions and \$190,000 to cover operating expenses. Additionally, the agency will incur a non-recurring General Fund expenditure impact of \$101,000 to cover one-time expenses for furniture, equipment, and automation. Therefore, the overall General Fund expenditure impact of the bill would be \$3,943,808 for the first year of implementation and \$3,842,808 in the years thereafter.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director