

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2004 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB492

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron**       Kilgore

**3. Committee**   Appropriations

**4. Title**        Compensation of court-appointed counsel.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** Sets the compensation of court-appointed attorneys at 75 percent of the compensation in United States federal courts and sets the caps for such cases at 75 percent of the federal caps. This would set the hourly rate for court appointed attorneys at \$67.50 and cap the amount paid per case at \$1,125 for misdemeanors and \$3,900 per felony.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** Yes, Items 32, 33, 34, and 35

**8. Fiscal implications:** Although this legislation will have significant fiscal impact, it is impossible to accurately determine the extent of the impact. However, based on fiscal year 2003 actual expenditures for court appointed attorneys, if 25 percent of the cases reached the caps set in this legislation, additional funding of \$76.6 million would be required.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Court System, Criminal Fund

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** None

**11. Other comments:** None

**Date:** 02/05/04 / tmb

**Document:** f:\tmb\leg04\hb492.doc