

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1078ER

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron: Howell

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Expenses of Special Justices

5. Summary: Provides that special justices, retired judges, or district court substitute judges presiding over involuntary commitment hearings shall receive, in addition to a fee for each hearing, reimbursement for mileage, parking, tolls, and postage.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final

6a. Expenditure Impact: See Item 8

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2010	\$75,000	General
2011	\$75,000	General
2012	\$75,000	General
2013	\$75,000	General
2014	\$75,000	General
2015	\$75,000	General

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 41

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation would specifically allow for the reimbursement to special justices for the costs associated with mileage, parking, tolls and postage. Except for postage, these expenses are already reimbursed. Postage expenses are incurred through mailing the reports of various hearings to the courts. During FY2008 there were almost 25,000 hearings (commitments, certifications, recommitments, and consent for medical treatment), at an estimated cost of \$3.00 to mail a copy of the report to the courts for each of the hearings, this bill would result in an annual fiscal impact of \$75,000 per year.

The General Assembly included language in the legislation indicating any cost incurred in complying with this legislation is to be absorbed using existing appropriation for involuntary mental commitments. Given that the funding for involuntary mental commitments is presently being fully utilized to cover existing costs, this action has potential to create a shortfall in the budget.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 3/11/2009

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