

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1078S1

House of Origin    \_\_\_ Introduced      X   Substitute    \_\_\_ Engrossed  
Second House       \_\_\_ In Committee    \_\_\_ Substitute    \_\_\_ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Howell

**3. Committee:** Senate Finance

**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:** Preliminary (see Item 9)

**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.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** The amendment in the nature of a substitute corrects language in the bill as introduced to conform to the intent of the original bill, which was for special justices to be reimbursed for expenses in addition to the payment for each hearing. Line 15 –16 in the original bill would have allowed “. . . \$43.25 for his necessary mileage, parking, tolls and

postage for each certification hearing . . . “ Line 13 –14 in the amendment in nature of a substitute allows for \$43.25 for each hearing plus mileage, parking, tolls, and postage.

**Date:** 2/6/2009

**Document:** G:\2009 FIS - COMPLETED\SB1078S1.Doc Reginald Thompson

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