

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB927E

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Edwards, J.

**3. Committee:** General Laws and Technology

**4. Title:** Administrative Process Act; disqualification of a hearing officer.

**5. Summary:** Establishes a process for the disqualification of hearing officers in situations where the officer cannot accord a fair and impartial hearing or consideration, or when required by the applicable rules governing the practice of law. The reasons that a hearing officer may be disqualified include prejudice, financial interest, ex parte communications, or any other factor that would cause a reasonable person to question the impartiality of the hearing officer. In addition, the bill establishes a process for challenging the initial decision to not disqualify.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** No fiscal impact.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** None.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All state agencies that hold hearings and are not exempt from the Administrative Process Act, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Supreme Court.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 1/23/15