

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

Bill: SB730

Special Session:

Patron: Lewis

Date: 2/10/2022

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Jurors; compensation. Increases the daily compensation for jurors from \$30 to \$100.

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### Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 - \$0.1 million.

Most of the responding localities reported a fiscal impact of \$0, as they expected the state to assume the costs of increasing juror compensation, or their locality was not responsible for paying jurors (e.g., towns).

For the localities which did report a negative fiscal impact, the cost stems from increases in compensation to jurors. These costs would come primarily from orientation days (where all potential jurors are required to report); the amount of compensation would then depend upon the term thereafter.

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### Local Analysis:

**Locality:** City of Danville

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$104,000.00

Currently, Danville courts are pulling 200 people per each term of Court ( $200 \times 6 = 1,200$ ). We have an additional 200 people in the annual pool that we can use if we need to summon additional jurors. If additional jurors are needed, this gives us an annual pool of 1,400 total. Based on these numbers, at \$30 per day, we can expect the cost for orientation days (where all are required to report) to be between \$36,000 and \$42,000.

The increase to \$100/day proposed would make required orientation cost between \$120,000 and \$140,000. At most, this would show an increased cost of \$104,000.

Please note: Costs will vary for the duration of the term after orientation day because all jurors may not report as scheduled. One term may have multiple jury trial dates that occur as scheduled, only for the next term to have every case be resolved prior to the date of the trial. The figures represented here represent the cost for every possible person called to jury duty to attend orientation.

Any increase in revenue from the legislation will benefit the State when assessed costs are paid by defendants.

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Locality: City of Manassas

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

This will not impact the City of Manassas.

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**Locality:** City of Winchester

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$50,000.00

City's current budget is \$20,000 for jury duty.

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Locality: County of Mecklenburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$35,695.00

If based upon FY 2020-21 actual figures, the cost in total of a \$100 allowance will be \$50,993, or a \$35,695 increase above the \$30 rate.

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**Locality:** Norfolk

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Estimated fiscal impact is based off of assumption of additional state general fund dollars allocated for the increase in juror expenses.

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Locality: Town of Blacksburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

The Town is not responsible for paying jurors.

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**Locality:** Town of Leesburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Town has no courts system. Court services are provided by Loudoun County.

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Locality: Town of Scottsville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

No fiscal impact on Scottsville or similarly situated small towns.

Our county courts budget which pays jurors does not have a cost-sharing arrangement with the Town, and is funded by a mix of state, county, and internal revenues.

Increasing jury pay does not impact the Town budget.

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**Locality:** Wise County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$15,500.00

This will adversely affect our budget

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