

## N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Research  
733-4910

Prepared By: C. H. Wyland	Date Prepared	Bill No.	Edition: Comm. Sub. 5/1/89
Approved By: Tom Covington TOMC*(revised)*	6/12/89 6/12/89	H 879 <b>REVISED</b>	Sponsor: Rep. Payne
Short Title: Hearing/Sight Impaired Jurors (first fiscal note prepared 6/8/89)			

TYPE OF FISCAL IMPACT		FUNDS AFFECTED:		( ) Other:			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General		<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Local		
		County/-----					
State Gov't		Local Gov't	State Fiscal Impact		FY89-90	FY90-91	FY91-92
No Fiscal Impact		( )	( )	State Total Req'ments Receipts/Revenues	0	\$3,000*	\$4-12,000
Increase Expenditure		(x)	( )	Net State Expend./Rev. No. of Positions		\$3,000	\$4-12,000
Decrease Expenditure		( )	( )	Local Fiscal Impact	FY	FY	FY
Increase Revenue		( )	( )	Local Total Req'ments			
Decrease Revenue		( )	( )	Receipts/Revenues			
No Estimate Avail.		( )	( )	Net Local Expend./Rev. No. of Positions			

Note: Dollar amounts unchanged; effective date changes fiscal impact from 1989-90 to 1990-91.

## Description of Legislation

1. Summary of Legislation - This bill would allow deaf persons to be included on jury lists and to serve on juries.
2. Effective Date - July 1, 1990
3. Fund or Tax Affected - General Fund
4. Principal Department/Program Affected - Judicial Department/Superior Court and District Court

## Cost or Revenue Impact on State

	FY 89-90	FY 90-91	FY 91-92
1. Non-Recurring Costs/Revenues			
2. Recurring Costs/Revenues	-0	\$3,000	\$4-12,000
3. Fiscal/Revenue Assumptions - See the following page.			

Cost/Revenue Impact on County or Local Government

	FY 88-89	FY 89-90	FY
1. Non-Recurring Costs/Revenues			
2. Recurring Costs/Revenues			
3. Fiscal/Revenue Assumptions			
Range of costs:	\$4,000 to \$12,000 per year when fully implemented		
	\$0-3,000 in 1990-91		

This estimate is derived from a survey of deaf persons' service in Colorado and Louisiana, two states with laws almost identical to the one proposed for North Carolina. There is a great difference in the extent of deaf juror service in these two states. Colorado appears to be far higher than any other state in the county in deaf juror service in relation to total population. Contributing factors appear to be a strong effort by its court system to implement the law and a deaf community which is relatively well-educated and active in public affairs. Over the last 4 years Colorado has had an average of 3.4 deaf jurors and 21 other deaf persons in jury pools per year in a state with a population of slightly over half of North Carolina's.

If deaf juror services in North Carolina were to reach that in Colorado in relation to total population the amount and cost would be as follows:

1. Estimated number of deaf persons per year in juror pool but not chosen for jury service	40.7
Average cost of interpreters per person*	\$ 144_
=	\$5,861.00
2. Estimated number of deaf persons serving on	

juries per year	6.6
Average cost of interpreters per person*	\$ 900
	= \$5,940.00

$$\$4,861.00 + \$5,940.00 = \$11,801.00$$

\* The estimates for cost per deaf person were derived from multiplying the average number of hours an interpreter would be needed by the \$20.00 per hour cost of interpreters and adding an ample allowance for interpreter mileage and occasional overnight stays. This estimate also calculates the payment for a second interpreter to alternate with the first in two/thirds of the time of Trials in which deaf jurors serve.

Louisiana has had only 1 deaf juror per year over the last three years since implementation, although its population is 40 percent greater than Colorado's. Estimates were received from two other states, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The cost estimate for North Carolina, based on the information from each of these three states, would be between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year.

The range of \$4,000 to \$12,00 is from a level above that derived from these three states to the level of Colorado.

It is not anticipated that additional costs would be incurred if visually impaired individuals serve on juries.

#### Sources of Data for Fiscal Note - Department of Human Resources

#### Technical Considerations/Comments



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