

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

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| Bill Number: 5828 S SB | Title: Water rights commissioners | Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts |
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note for Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

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|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
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| Agency Preparation: Angie Wirkkala | Phone: 360-704-5528 | Date: 01/29/2024 |
| Agency Approval: Chris Stanley | Phone: 360-357-2406 | Date: 01/29/2024 |
| OFM Review: | Phone: | Date: |

192,452.00

Request # 153-1

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact on the Courts

The substitute would have the same, no fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts or the courts. The changes do not affect the analysis of the original note.

The bill would add a section to the water code (Chapter 90.03 RCW) allowing the superior court to assign one or more attorney to act as a water commissioner. Process and duties of the water commissioner are highlighted within the legislation which include the ability to hold evidentiary hearings and contested and issue decisions on fact and legal issues.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None

II. C - Expenditures

The bill would have no fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts. It is permissive allowing the superior court in each county to appoint water commissioners. It only has impact on superior courts if a county appoints a commissioner.

As this bill relates to the current water adjudication in Whatcom County, there is no fiscal impact. The Administrative Office of the Courts was appropriated funding in the 2023-25 biennial budget to pass through to Whatcom County to fund a water commissioner.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (State)

NONE

III. B - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (County)

NONE

III. C - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (City)

NONE

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

III. E - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B1 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (State)

NONE

IV. B2 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (County)

NONE

IV. B3 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (City)

NONE

192,452.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

2

Request # 153-1

Bill # 5828 S SB

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

None