

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6418-01
Bill No.: HB 2459
Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Criminal Procedure; Juries; Courts
Type: Original
Date: March 16, 2018

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to trial procedures for murder in the first degree.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Revenue	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** assume this proposed legislation could have a positive fiscal impact on the SPD. If the jury cannot decide upon punishment, the judge cannot impose a punishment of death. Depending on the number of times this could occur, the SPD would not have a capital appeal, a capital Post Conviction Relief (PCR) or a capital PCR appeal on the limited number of cases where a judge decides the sentence of death in a capital case. Therefore, a cost savings could be possible.

Oversight will assume that any savings realized by the SPD could potentially be shifted to other cases. Therefore, Oversight will range the fiscal impact from \$0 to an unknown amount.

Officials at the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** assume there may be some impact but there is no way to quantify that currently. Any significant changes will be reflected in future budget requests.

Officials at the **Office of the Attorney General (AGO)** assume that any potential costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if there is a significant increase in litigation.

Officials at the **Department of Corrections** and the **Office of Prosecution Services** each assume no fiscal impact to their respective agencies from this proposal.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	(10 Mo.)		
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Savings - SPD - potential savings if in certain cases, judges are not allowed to decide the sentence of death</u>	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>	<u>\$0 or Unknown</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2019 (10 Mo.)	FY 2020	FY 2021
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION


Currently, if a jury cannot decide or agree upon a defendant's punishment upon conviction of first degree murder, the jury is instructed that the court shall assess and declare the punishment at life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the Governor or death. This bill removes death as an option for the court to declare as punishment in cases where the jury cannot decide or agree upon the punishment.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the State Public Defender
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the Attorney General
Department of Corrections
Office of Prosecution Services

Ross Strope



Acting Director
March 16, 2018