

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6387

BILL NUMBER: SB 155

DATE PREPARED: Mar 30, 1999

BILL AMENDED: Mar 29, 1999

SUBJECT: Huntington Superior Court personnel; Jasper Superior Court

FISCAL ANALYST: Susan Preble

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9867

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill authorizes the Huntington Superior Court to appoint a referee and other personnel.

It reinstates the statutory authority for Jasper Superior Court No. 2, which continued to operate under the authority of a court order after it's statutory authority was removed by P.L.18-1995. It also makes related changes.

Effective Date: (Amended) July 1, 1999; Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The provision reinstating Jasper Superior Court No. 2 has no fiscal impact because the state has continued to pay the salary of the presiding judge under the court order referenced above.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill requires that the county pay the salaries of a referee and other personnel appointed to serve the Huntington Superior Court. It also requires that the salaries for the additional personnel be fixed in the same way as the salaries for the bailiff and official court reporter for the Huntington Circuit Court. In 1997, the Circuit Court bailiff and court reporter were paid salaries of \$20,069 and \$24,588 respectively. Salary recommendations for county paid court personnel are proposed by the appointing judge and must be approved by the county council.

There are a total of 17 referees statewide, which include juvenile, domestic relations and small claims referees. There are five small-claims referees whose salaries are paid in part by the state (DeKalb, Fountain, Owen, Pike, and Tipton counties). The salaries are variable and range from \$8,840 for a part-time small claims referee to \$51,000 for a full-time small claims referee.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Division of State Court Administration

Local Agencies Affected: Huntington Superior Court; Jasper Superior Court

Information Sources: Division of State Court Administration, 232-2542; Indiana Judicial Report, Vols. I & III ; IC 33-5-2.5.