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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Godbey DATE TYPED: 01/25/02 HB 151

SHORT TITLE: Retired Metro Judges as Special Masters SB _____

ANALYST: Gilbert

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Response Received From
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (BCMC)
LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 151 adds a new section to Chapter 34, Article 8 NMSA 1978 to compensate retired metropolitan court judges who serve as a special master, an arbitrator or a metropolitan judge pro tempore at an amount equal to ninety percent of the compensation provided to a full-time district court judge pro tempore, subject to the funds available in the metropolitan court's approved operating budget.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2002

Significant Issues

The sole "metropolitan" court in the State of New Mexico is the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (BCMC) located in Albuquerque. Therefore, this bill applies only to pro tempore judges serving at BCMC.

"Pro tempore" literally means "for the time being;" in other words, a temporary or a substitute judge. Retired judges pro tempore serving at BCMC assist in hearing cases when judges are unavailable, for example when dockets are full or for employee grievances or other employee-related cases.

It should be noted that if the Supreme Court itself designates a retired *district* court judge to serve as a pro tempore at the metropolitan court, that judge will subsequently receive the district court's rate of compensation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Since funding is available in BCMC's general fund budget to compensate judges pro tempore, additional funding is not being requested.

RLG/sec