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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/16

SPONSOR Martinez **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Create Judge Pro Tempore Fund **SB** 97

ANALYST Downs

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16	FY17		
NFI	>(\$30.9)	NFI	Nonrecurring	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Court (AOC)

Judicial Standards Commission (JSC)

Bernalillo Metropolitan Court (BCMC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 97 creates a nonreverting “judge pro tempore fund” in the state treasury to be managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) through vouchers to compensate appointed judges pro tempore who serve temporarily in district courts. The fund will include revenue from appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, and bequests.

This bill does not include an appropriation and has an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Administrative Office of the Courts states that the creation of a nonreverting fund for the payment of judges pro tempore would create efficiencies within the judiciary. Due to the fluctuation of judge pro tem appointments, it is difficult to budget appropriately each year. A nonreverting fund would allow savings from one year to compensate for higher expenditures in other years resulting in fewer requests for special or supplemental appropriations.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Administrative Office of the Courts was appropriated \$30.9 thousand in FY16 for judges pro tem and any unspent funds will revert to the general fund at the close of the fiscal year.

According to AOC, in FY15 \$6.5 thousand was reverted from judges pro tem appropriations and \$30.2 thousand was reverted in FY14. Had the funds been nonreverting, AOC would have savings available for use in the current and upcoming fiscal years.

JD/sec/jo