

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3014, as Amended**

(Doc. No. 22467zw13.docx)

TO: The Honorable Larry A. Martin, Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Rodney P. Grizzle and Rachael Fulmer
DATE: May 14, 2013 SBD: 2013319

AUTHOR: Representative J. E. Smith PRIMARY CODE CITE: 14-29-10
SUBJECT: Veterans Treatment Court Program Act

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3014 as amended amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Chapter 29, Title 14, to enact the "Veterans Treatment Court Program Act" which would create the administration for and the Veterans Treatment Court Programs itself, in each of the 16 Judicial Circuits coordinated by the Attorney General's Office.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Judicial Department

The Department indicates that this Bill will have a fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State, but due to the lack of empirical data on the volume of veterans seeking and granted admission to the program in each circuit and the overall uncertainty as to the number of Solicitors that will establish veteran treatment courts, the Department is unable to provide an accurate estimate as to the overall cost. The Department did state that since the judge must reside in the judicial district where he serves, the travel costs would be minimized.

The Commission on Indigent Defense

The Commission indicates that this Bill will have a fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State, but due to the lack of specific funding for the Public Defenders Offices in each of the 16 Circuits and the unknown volume of veterans seeking and granted admission to the program in each circuit, the Commission is unable to provide an accurate estimate as to the overall cost.

The Prosecution Coordination Commission

It is unknown what the statewide fiscal impact would be for this Bill. Currently, there are only 3 Veterans Court Programs in Richland County, Charleston County and Greenville County. The Charleston and Greenville Programs are both divisions of their Drug Court Programs. Some Circuits may be able to absorb the cost of establishing and running a Veterans Court Program but some Circuits may require a part-time Veterans Court Administrator to supervise and coordinate the program.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart
Assistant Director, State Budget Division