



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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Greg S. Griffin
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January 20, 2021

Honorable Joseph Gullett
State Representative
501-D Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 48 0260)

Dear Representative Gullett:

This bill creates a Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission (PAOC) modeled after the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC). The commission would be responsible for (1) conducting investigations, (2) holding hearings, and (3) issuing formal advisory opinions to the Supreme Court regarding allegations of misconduct among elected and appointed prosecuting attorneys. The commission members' terms would begin July 1, 2021. The district attorneys and solicitors-general, municipal prosecutors, and the staffs of these prosecutors would fall under the purview of PAOC, along with their staff members when appropriate.

The estimated cost of the PAOC is approximately \$980,000 annually, with one-time expenditures in the first year of \$225,000 (Table 1). Annual costs are primarily for agency and contract staff, with significantly lesser costs for real estate rental and regular operating expenses. Agency staff include a director, deputy director, staff attorney, investigator, and case manager/administrator, while contract investigators would supplement staff when necessary.

Table 1. Estimated Cost of Proposed PAOC

Annual Costs	Amount
Personal Services	\$710,000
Contracts	\$200,000
Regular Operating Expenses	\$45,000
Real Estate Rental	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total Annual	\$980,000

One-Time Costs	Amount
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	\$225,000

The PAOC estimate is largely based on the budget for the JQC. While JQC oversees approximately 1,500 judges and there are significantly fewer elected and appointing prosecuting attorneys (115 districts attorneys and solicitors-general, unknown municipal prosecutors), it is expected that workloads of the two agencies would be similar. Prosecuting attorneys have significantly larger staffs than judges, and complaints can be filed against prosecutors due to the actions of their staffs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Farr".

Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/tj