



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

**Greg S. Griffin**  
STATE AUDITOR  
(404) 656-2174

January 20, 2021

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

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill (LC 48 0261)

Dear Representative Gullett:

This bill requires that the Judicial Qualification Commission (JQC) include elected and appointed prosecuting attorneys in their current duties of (1) conducting investigations, (2) holding hearings, and (3) issuing formal advisory opinions regarding judicial misconduct. The commission members' terms would begin July 1, 2021. Under this bill, district attorneys and solicitors-general, municipal prosecutors, and the staffs of these prosecutors would fall under JQC purview.

Additional expenditures for JQC are estimated at \$720,000 annually, with one-time expenditures in the first year of \$225,000 (Table 1). Annual costs would support a new prosecutor division consisting of a deputy director, staff attorney, investigator, and case manager/administrator, supplemented by contract investigators. The division would also require JQC to incur additional real estate rental and regular operating expenses.

**Table 1. Estimated Cost of New JQC Responsibility**

<b>Annual Costs</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Personal Services	\$450,000
Contracts	\$200,000
Regular Operating Expenses	\$45,000
Real Estate Rental	\$25,000
<b>Total Annual</b>	<b>\$720,000</b>

<b>One-Time Costs</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	\$225,000

The estimate is largely based on the existing costs for JQC oversight of judges. While JQC oversees approximately 1,500 judges, there are significantly fewer elected and appointing

prosecuting attorneys (115 districts attorneys and solicitors-general, unknown municipal prosecutors). However, 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