


**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: DEC 4 2006

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Jury Trial Improvements Act of 2006"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 16-700 (Committee Print, November 20, 2006)

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. No additional resources or staff will be required.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend Title 15-718 of the D.C. Official Code to allow for increases in juror compensation, would add a new chapter to Title 16 to protect confidentiality of jury participants, and would improve the accuracy of source lists.

The proposed legislation would allow the Board of Judges of the Superior Court to increase the attendance fee and travel allowance for jurors serving in the D.C. Superior Court. Currently, the statutory attendance fee is \$30 per day and the travel allowance is a maximum of \$2 per day (D.C. Official Code § 15-178).

In addition, the proposed legislation would add a new chapter to Title 16. The new chapter would prohibit anyone from divulging the identifying information (e.g. name, home address, etc.) for any citizen participating in the jury selection process, whether or not the citizen is selected for jury duty, except for the purpose of selecting a fair and impartial jury. The proposed legislation would provide for limited exceptions to this prohibition consistent with existing D.C. law.

The Honorable Linda W. Cropp

FIS: Bill 16-700, "Jury Trial Improvements Act of 2006" (Committee Print, November 20, 2006)

Page 2 of 2

Finally, the proposed legislation would amend existing code (D.C. Official Code § 16-5104) to require District government agencies or instrumentalities to take "all reasonable steps" to ensure that names and addresses for potential jury duty are accurate.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan. No additional staff and resources will be required to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.