

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5505

AN ACT PROMOTING THE EXPEDITIOUS RESOLUTION OF  
COMMERCIAL CASES IN THE STATE.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 19 \$</b>	<b>FY 20 \$</b>
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	41,587	41,587
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Potential Cost	15,109	15,109
IOLTA Program	SF - Potential Revenue Gain	Up to 9,000/case	Up to 9,000/case

Note: GF=General Fund; SF=Special Fund (Non-appropriated)

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill requires the Judicial Department to establish a special court session and results in a potential cost. It is anticipated Judicial will need one clerk at a cost of \$41,587 plus fringe benefits to staff the center and the appointment of a judge trial referee (JTRs receive a per diem of \$251 per day). As this bill requires the center to be created within available appropriations, the cost indicated above is described as potential.

The bill requires that parties that request a transfer to the special court session to pay a fee of \$25 each day per party for each day the

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.33% of payroll in FY 19 and FY 20.

case is pending on the center's docket, from the day the case is transferred until judgement is entered or the case is transferred back to the regular docket. The bill specifies that the fees collected from these cases will be transferred to the Connecticut Bar Foundation for the interest on lawyers' trust account (IOLTA) program to fund legal services for the poor. It is anticipated that most of these cases will be resolved within 6 months or less, resulting in fee revenue of less than \$9,000 each case to the IOLTA program.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of cases.