

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN EVICTION LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Prime Sponsors: Senator Winter  
Representative McCluskie

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**Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date**

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 03/18/19.

<b>XXX</b>	<b>No Change:</b> Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	<b>Non-Concurrence:</b> JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

The bill was amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee (03/20/19), the Senate Appropriations Committee (04/16/19), the Senate during second reading (04/18/19), and the Senate during third reading (04/22/19), however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the amendments do not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

**Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee**

Amendment	Description
None.	

**Current Appropriations Clause in Bill**

The bill includes an appropriation clause that appropriates \$750,000 in FY 2019-20 from the General Fund to the Eviction Legal Defense Fund, which is created by the bill. The clause then reappropriates \$750,000 from the Eviction Legal Defense Fund to the Judicial Department for FY 2019-20 to make grants.

**Points to Consider**

*General Fund Impact*

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2019-20 based on the March 2019 Legislative Council Staff revenue forecast. The budget package leaves approximately \$47.9 million General Fund unallocated. Thus, the General Assembly could appropriate up to \$44.7 million General Fund to fund 2019 legislation and maintain a 7.25 percent General Fund reserve. This bill

**SB19-180****JBC Staff Analysis**

requires a General Fund appropriation of \$750,000 for FY 2019-20, reducing the excess General Fund reserve by \$804,375.

*Technical Issue*

The bill creates the Eviction Legal Defense Fund, which consists of General Fund appropriated to the fund by the General Assembly. The money in the fund is then reappropriated to the Judicial Department to allow it to make grants to organizations that provide legal services to indigent clients at risk of eviction. Is it necessary to appropriate General Fund into a new cash fund, rather than appropriating General Fund directly to the Judicial Department for this purpose?