153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 115**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Lockman**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 25 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SUMMARY POSSESSION.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective 6 months upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act establishes a statutory process for former defendants in eviction actions to have the eviction filings against them expunged from the court in which the original eviction action was filed.
3. The Justice of the Peace Court (the Court) anticipates the need for Judicial Case Processors as this Act due to the influx of expungement requests which will require the Court to develop and implement administrative procedures to process, research, and verify expungement requests, ensure proper redaction and removal of court records from civil case management docketing systems, and provide certified documentation to applicants.
    a. The Fiscal Year 2026 personnel costs, including other employment costs (OECs) at a rate of 33.34%, for 2.0 FTE, Judicial Case Processor III positions are estimated at $104,679, and one-time funding of $13,340 for projected technology equipment and furniture costs related to the startup of the positions.
    b. The Court anticipates that programming changes will be needed within its civil case management docketing systems to reflect enhancements to accommodate the requirements of this Act. At this time of this fiscal projection, the full technical design of these changes is being evaluated, and the cost estimates for future years are unknown.
4. Lastly, the Fiscal Year 2026 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation cost has been included for projected increases in salary and OECs.

Cost:

	One-Time	Operating/Recurring
Fiscal Year 2026:	$13,340	$104,679
Fiscal Year 2027:		$142,364
Fiscal Year 2028:		$145,211

Prepared by Jason R. Smith
Office of the Controller General