

NH Judicial Branch - General Fund & Highway Fund Revenue Projections -- FY2020 & FY2021

5/1/2020

Revenue Description	Revenue		Plan	FY2020 Proj	\$ Var	% Var	Low End			High End		
	Account	Fund					FY2021 Proj	\$ Var fr Plan	% Var	FY2021 Proj	\$ Var fr Plan	% Var
Penalty Assessment	404995	General	1,428,346	1,023,027	-405,319	-28.4%	446,972	-981,374	-68.7%	446,972	-981,374	-68.7%
Court Admin Fees/Safety	402475	General	815,000	817,834	2,834	0.3%	296,500	-518,500	-63.6%	593,000	-222,000	-27.2%
Bar Exam Fees	402477	General	6,368	6,058	-310	-4.9%	2,200	-4,168	-65.5%	4,675	-1,693	-26.6%
Partial Pymt Fines/Doc	402591	General	0	10,974	10,974	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
e-Filing Surcharge	403252	General	300,000	363,921	63,921	21.3%	325,200	25,200	8.4%	335,363	35,363	11.8%
Guard.Ad Litem-Probate Recovery	405318	General	0	8,029	8,029	0.0%	11,287	11,287	0.0%	11,287	11,287	0.0%
Interest-Court System	405501	General	4	1	-3	-68.8%	2	-2	-57.5%	2	-2	-57.5%
Fines	407308	General	1,441,635	1,153,331	-288,304	-20.0%	446,918	-994,717	-69.0%	726,242	-715,393	-49.6%
Bail Forfeitures	407309	General	98,865	124,377	25,512	25.8%	31,600	-67,265	-68.0%	51,350	-47,515	-48.1%
Entry Fee	407310	General	3,709,327	3,466,096	-243,231	-6.6%	2,316,659	-1,392,668	-37.5%	2,751,032	-958,295	-25.8%
Default Fee	407311	General	93,582	134,122	40,540	43.3%	62,116	-31,466	-33.6%	62,116	-31,466	-33.6%
Other Fees	407312	General	6,430,296	6,266,448	-163,848	-2.5%	4,539,022	-1,891,274	-29.4%	4,539,022	-1,891,274	-29.4%
Misc. Sales/Revenue	407509	General	4,000	-684	-4,684	-117.1%	-2,465	-6,465	-161.6%	0	-4,000	-100.0%
	Total	General	14,327,423	13,373,534	-953,889	-6.7%	8,476,011	-5,851,412	-40.8%	9,521,060	-4,806,363	-33.5%
Motor Vehicle Fines - Court	403671	Highway	5,601,000	4,596,665	-1,004,335	-17.9%	2,024,992	-3,576,008	-63.8%	3,290,612	-2,310,388	-41.2%
	Grand Total	GF + HWY	19,928,423	17,970,199	-1,958,224	-9.8%	10,501,003	-9,427,420	-47.3%	12,811,672	-7,116,751	-35.7%

Issues impacting revenues collected by the Courts:

Governor Sununu's stay at home order in conjunction with the high unemployment rate is significantly reducing the number of vehicles on the road, which in turn means far fewer MV-related offenses and a reduction in MV Fines. This impacts three revenue streams: (1) Court Admin Fees/Safety (\$50 Admin fee collected by Dept of Safety for failure to reply to a Plea-By-Mail citation or failure to pay a Plea-By-Mail obligation to Dept of Safety, (2) Motor Vehicle Fines-Court which are Motor Vehicle fines collected by the Courts, and (3) Penalty Assessments, a portion of which are assessed on MV Fines.

The Superior Court has cancelled all jury trials, and is actively pursuing solutions to hold jury trials in a manner consistent with the Governor's Emergency Orders. Until such time as jury trials can resume, any fine that may be imposed will be delayed, which will have a significant negative impact on Fine revenues being collected for the foreseeable future.

eFilings have continued at a fairly steady pace in the courts; however, staffing in the Circuit Court eFiling centers are at about half normal levels due to illness, childcare issues, and the need to impose social distancing measures. As a result, eFiling surcharges are down, although not as significantly as Criminal and MV Fines and it is hoped that these figures will not worsen, once VPN connectivity issues are worked through allowing staff to work remotely with greater consistency and efficiency.

Governor Sununu's Emergency Orders #4 and #24, which address suspension of certain eviction actions, has slowed the filings of Landlord/Tenant cases, which has resulted in a temporary decrease in Entry Fees.

Approximately 80% of Other Fees is Records Research Fees; approximately 90% of Records Research Fees is employers doing background checks on new hires. Consequently, Other Fees will be significantly impacted due to companies laying off employees in large numbers and no longer looking to hire; a similar rationale holds for landlords who will probably not be entering into new rental agreements with so many people unemployed.

4373
19709

Through the seven weeks of March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020, the Circuit Court has canceled 82% of the cases it had scheduled. Of the 18% (4,373) of the cases it conducted, cases took a considerably longer time to hear. This means there will be a considerable amount of backlogged cases once hearings open up again.

24082
0.181588
0.818412