

HB 1188 -- CRIMINAL CASE FEES

SPONSOR: Lipke (157)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 17 to 0.

This bill clarifies that various costs assessed in criminal cases must also be assessed in those cases in which a defendant pleads guilty. Many of the existing statutes use the term "convicted," creating an ambiguity as to whether costs are to be assessed in cases where the court grants a suspended imposition of sentence and the defendant's record is expunged upon successful completion of a probationary period.

The bill also amends the list of misdemeanor offenses for which a \$10 fee is assessed for the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. Current law lists 14 chapters of law for which the fee is assessed. The bill changes this to all misdemeanors, except for driving offenses, watercraft regulations, and fish and game offenses.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Net Income of More than \$100,000 in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies and makes court costs in criminal cases uniform.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lipke (157); Office of State Courts Administrator; and Missouri Association of Counties.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst