

HCS SB 404 -- COURT COSTS

SPONSOR: Koster (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding court costs. No court in Missouri that is authorized to collect court costs will be required to collect any court costs or refund any overpayments of less than \$5. The substitute removes the January 1, 2001, deadline for a municipality or county to enact an ordinance to impose a domestic violence shelter surcharge on marriage licenses and civil cases filed in a circuit court. For any county or city with a domestic violence shelter or whose residents are in a shelter located in another county, the shelter surcharge may be assessed in any criminal case, including violations of any county or municipal ordinance. The substitute allows a circuit court to contract with a private entity operated by a public entity to collect past-due court costs, penalties, and fines.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies the collection of court costs and allows for the expansion of collecting court costs to fund domestic violence prevention programs and regional centers.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Koster; and Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst