

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0706-01  
Bill No.: HB 123  
Subject: Courts; Liability  
Type: Original  
Date: December 29, 2006

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Bill Summary: The proposal expands small claims court jurisdiction from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

☐ Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

☐ Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator (CTS)** assume there may be some increase in the total volume of civil case filings. In FY 06, there were 15,704 small claims filings and 177,919 associate civil filings. The simpler small claims process may result in a shift in some civil cases into small claims court.

Court clerks are required to assist parties with filing documents and advise them with respect to process (and are exempt from prosecution for practicing law without a license). This is very time consuming. Because of the absence of lawyers, small claims cases require more time to try and dispose.

CTS assumes there may be an increase in the workload of the courts. Any significant increase will be reflected in future budget requests.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2008 (10 Mo.)	FY 2009	FY 2010
	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2008 (10 Mo.)	FY 2009	FY 2010
	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>

### FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

The proposal could have a direct fiscal impact on small businesses who are involved in small claims law suits.

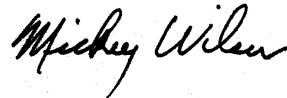
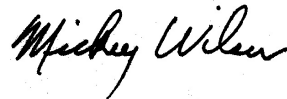
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of State Courts Administrator



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Director  
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