

HB 2262 -- COURT COSTS

SPONSOR: Cornejo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 5 to 2.

This bill increases the amount to be collected for the Statewide Court Automation Fund from \$7 to \$25.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that people have worked diligently since 1994 to have a statewide court automation system that covers every court. To maintain the system and to stay on the leading edge costs money. Last year, the system cost \$15 million, and that all came from various funds and grants. There are some savings, but none of the savings return to the fund to maintain the automation system. The automation system is audited and the fee has not been changed since 1994 though technology has changed substantially since then.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cornejo; Gary W. Lynch, Missouri Court Automation Committee; The Honorable Joe Don McGaugh; Missouri Circuit Clerks Association; and the Judicial Conference of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that courts and the Missouri Bar are wholeheartedly behind court automation.

Testifying on the bill were The Missouri Bar and Earl Kraus, Missouri State Courts.