

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0597-01  
Bill No.: HB 124  
Subject: Courts; Judges; Civil Procedure; Saint Louis City; Libraries and Archives  
Type: Original  
Date: February 22, 2019

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Bill Summary: This proposal allows the circuit court in St. Louis City to collect a fee not to exceed twenty dollars, rather than fifteen, to go toward the law library.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<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 5 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0 to \$142,379</b>	<b>\$0 to \$170,855</b>	<b>\$0 to \$170,855</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** assume the proposed legislation allows the circuit court in St. Louis City to collect a fee not to exceed twenty dollars, rather than fifteen, to go toward the law library. During the past five years there was an average of 7,585 circuit civil case filings, 7,346 domestic relations civil case filings and 18,314 associate civil and small claims civil case filings, for a total of 33,245. Based upon the increase in the collection fee not to exceed \$20, rather than \$15, to go toward the library, OSCA estimates the increase to be \$0 to \$166,225 ( $\$5 * 33,245$ ).

**Oversight** gathered information for FY 2017 and those numbers are as follows:

Circuit Civil	14,756
Domestic Relations	7,646
Associate Civil and Small Claims	<u>16,400</u>
Civil Circuit Total	38,802

Using OSCA's numbers plus FY 17, the new average for each would be as follows:

Circuit Civil	8,780
Domestic Relations	7,396
Associate Civil and Small Claims	<u>17,995</u>
Civil Circuit Total	34,171

**Oversight** estimates the increase to be \$0 to \$170,855 ( $\$5 * 34,171$ ).

Officials at the **City of St. Louis** state that according to the Law Librarian, some additional programming, database enhancements, increase in print volumes, and potential benefits to pro se litigants may be gained with additional fees but those are undefined at this time. The Law Library is its own entity separate from the Court. The Court is not in a position to quantify those costs as they pertain to the Circuit's operations.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government

FY 2020  
(10 Mo.)

FY 2021

FY 2022

**ST. LOUIS CITY CIRCUIT COURT  
FUNDS**

Revenue - on filing fees to go towards  
law library

\$0 to \$142,379

\$0 to \$170,855

\$0 to \$170,855

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON ST.  
LOUIS CITY CIRCUIT COURT  
FUNDS**

**\$0 to \$142,379**

**\$0 to \$170,855**

**\$0 to \$170,855**

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the circuit court in any circuit may collect a fee in civil cases not to exceed \$15, and that fee shall go toward maintenance and upkeep of the law library in the designated county. This bill allows Jackson County and any circuit that reimburses the state for salaries of family court commissioners to charge a fee up to \$20. The bill adds the circuit court in the city of St. Louis to the circuits that may charge a fee up to \$20.

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 the State Courts Administrator  
City of St. Louis



Kyle Rieman  
Director

Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director

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