

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0934H.01I
Bill No.: HB 348
Subject: Courts; Counties
Type: Original
Date: March 11, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal creates a special surcharge in civil cases for construction of a new courthouse in the twenty-third judicial circuit.

FISCAL SUMMARY

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE | 0 | 0 | 0 |

☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

☐ Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Local Government | Up to \$367,125 | Up to \$440,550 | Up to \$440,550 |

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state that during the past five years there was an average of 955 circuit civil case filings, 3,276 domestic relations civil case filings and 5,559 associate civil and small claims civil case filings, for a total of **9,790 civil cases** filed in the 23rd judicial circuit.

The special surcharge amount of \$45.00 is estimated to increase funds for the courthouse construction fund \$0 to \$440,550 (\$45 x 9,790 cases) annually in addition to other court costs. All funds shall be payable to the clerk of the twenty-third judicial circuit.

Oversight assumes this proposal adds a surcharge of \$45 on civil circuit cases, in addition to all other court costs at the time of filing a suit and expires on August 28, 2045. Therefore, Oversight will reflect revenues of up to \$440,550 annually for this proposal.

Oversight notes the 23rd Judicial Circuit is for Jefferson County and OSCA has based their estimates using the following information below:

| 23 RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL CASES | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|
| | FY23 | FY22 | FY21 | FY20 | FY19 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| | | | | | | |
| Filed | 9,817 | 9,369 | 8,826 | 9,737 | 11,201 | 9,790 |
| Disposed | 9,859 | 9,347 | 8,998 | 9,627 | 10,924 | 9,751 |

Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, various Jefferson County political subdivisions were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u> | FY 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | |
| | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| | | | |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u> | FY 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 23rd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT – JEFFERSON COUNTY | | | |
| | | | |
| <u>Revenue</u> – \$45 surcharge on civil cases for construction of a new courthouse (§488.448) p.3 | Up to \$367,125 | Up to \$440,550 | Up to \$440,550 |
| | | | |
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE 23RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY | <u>Up to \$367,125</u> | <u>Up to \$440,550</u> | <u>Up to \$440,550</u> |

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small businesses filing civil cases in the 23rd Judicial Circuit would be negatively impacted by this proposal. (§488.448)

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires a party filing a civil case in the 23rd Judicial Circuit to pay a surcharge of \$45 at the time of filing suit. This does not apply to proceedings when costs are otherwise waived or paid.

The funds from this surcharge will be credited to a courthouse construction fund, to be used for the construction of a new courthouse for the 23rd Judicial Circuit.

The provisions of this bill will expire on August 28, 2045. (§488.448)

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

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the State Courts Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Morff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Morff

Director

March 11, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Harris

Assistant Director

March 11, 2025