

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 7370H.011
Bill No.: HB 3443
Subject: Courts; Fees
Type: Original
Date: March 31, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to court costs.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Statewide Court Automation	Could exceed \$1,793,426	Could exceed \$2,152,111	Could exceed \$2,152,111
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	Could exceed \$1,793,426	Could exceed \$2,152,111	Could exceed \$2,152,111

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§488.012 and 488.027 – Court Costs

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state this proposed legislation modifies provisions relating to court costs.

During the past five fiscal years there was an average of 1,405,422 cases filed with the current fee of \$7. The average total assessment amount was \$9,837,954, and the average amount of revenue collected was \$5,021,725 (approximately a 51.044 % collection rate).

The court automation fee increase to \$10.00 is expected to result in approximately \$14,054,220 in assessments (average cases 1,405,422 x \$10.00). With the collection rate of 51.044 %, the estimated amount of revenue is approximately \$7,173,836. This would increase the average amount of revenue collected by \$2,152,111.

The Missouri Court Automation Committee would request an increase in appropriation authority from the statewide court automation fund to correspond with court automation fee assessments. The additional spending authority would assist in maintaining and advancing the judiciary’s use of automation in the local courts.

Oversight has no information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will present the fiscal impact of this proposal as provided by OSCA. However, Oversight notes the provisions of §488.027.4 provide that beginning January 1, 2027, and each year thereafter, the fee authorized shall be adjusted annually for inflation. As a result, Oversight assumes the fees presented could exceed the amount provided by OSCA once adjusted by the Consumer Price Index.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND (1270)			
<u>Revenue Gain</u> – OSCA (§§488.012 and 488.027) Increase in court fees p.3	Could exceed \$1,793,426	Could exceed \$2,152,111	Could exceed \$2,152,111
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND	Could exceed \$1,793,426	Could exceed \$2,152,111	Could exceed \$2,152,111

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the court collects as a court cost \$7 for the statewide court automation fund. This bill increases the amount to \$10. The bill specifies that, starting January 1, 2027, and every January thereafter, the fee associated with all civil cases and certain criminal cases assessed as court costs will be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The annual adjustment will apply to all cases filed on or after January 1st of the year in which the adjustment was made.

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



Julie Morff
 Director
 March 31, 2026



Jessica Harris
 Assistant Director
 March 31, 2026