

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4449H.011
Bill No.: HB 1963
Subject: Courts; Civil Procedure; Saint Louis City; Libraries and Archives
Type: Original
Date: February 14, 2022

Bill Summary: This proposal attempts to allow 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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Local Government	\$0 to \$141,013 to Unknown	\$0 to \$169,215 to Unknown	\$0 to \$169,215 to Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§488.426 - Fee collection for law library in St. Louis City

Based on the provided description of the bill, **Oversight** will assume the intent of the legislation is to allow the circuit court in St. Louis City (22nd judicial circuit) to collect a fee not to exceed \$20 (currently limited to \$15) to go toward a law library. Oversight notes the proposal exempts the circuit court in the City of St. Louis from the \$15 limit; however, it fails to specifically add the same circuit court to the \$20 exemption listing. Oversight assumes this may allow the 22nd judicial circuit to charge a fee more than \$20. For purposes of this fiscal note, Oversight will reflect a fiscal impact of increasing the fee from \$15 to \$20, to an unknown amount (if exceeds the \$20 limit).

In response to similar legislation from 2021, HB 143, officials at the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** assumed 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 estimated the increase to be \$0 to \$166,225 ($\$5 * 33,245$).

Oversight notes OSCA's numbers above are for FY12 thru FY16 according to the Missouri Judicial Report Supplement. Using the same information in the supplement, Oversight gathered information for the past nine years (FY12 thru FY20) and the average was as follows:

Circuit Civil	9,401
Domestic Relations	6,904
Associate Civil and Small Claims	<u>17,538</u>
Civil Circuit Total	33,843

Oversight estimates the increase to be \$0 to \$169,215 ($\$5 * 33,843$).

In response to similar legislation from 2021, HB 143, officials from the **City of St. Louis** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. The Law Librarian states that 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 Circuit Court. The Court is not in a position to quantify those costs as they pertain to the Circuit's operations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
ST. LOUIS CITY CIRCUIT COURT			
<u>Revenue</u> – on filing fees to go towards law library (§488.426) – from \$15 to \$20 – to beyond.	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON ST. LOUIS CITY CIRCUIT COURT	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 to \$141,013 to <u>Unknown</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

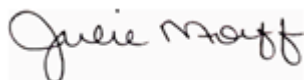
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

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. The bill attempts to add the Circuit Court in the city of St. Louis to the circuits that may charge a fee not to exceed \$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



Julie Morff
 Director
 February 14, 2022



Ross Strope
 Assistant Director
 February 14, 2022