

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 1030-01  
Bill No.: HB 251  
Subject: Fees; Courts; Domestic Relations  
Type: Original  
Date: March 1, 2013

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Bill Summary: This proposal increases the surcharge imposed upon civil actions from \$2 to \$4, which provides funds for domestic violence shelters.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>       |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>                                      | <b>FY 2014</b> | <b>FY 2015</b> | <b>FY 2016</b> |
|   |                |                |                |
|   |                |                |                |
| <b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b> | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     |

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>              |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>  | <b>FY 2014</b> | <b>FY 2015</b> | <b>FY 2016</b> |
|   |                |                |                |
|   |                |                |                |
| <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 4 pages.

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>                  |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>  | <b>FY 2014</b> | <b>FY 2015</b> | <b>FY 2016</b> |
|   |                |                |                |
|   |                |                |                |
| <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> |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>                                      | <b>FY 2014</b> | <b>FY 2015</b> | <b>FY 2016</b> |
|   |                |                |                |
|   |                |                |                |
| <b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>                  | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |

Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b> |                 |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>                       | <b>FY 2014</b>  | <b>FY 2015</b>  | <b>FY 2016</b>  |
| <b>Local Government</b>                    | <b>\$55,473</b> | <b>\$66,568</b> | <b>\$66,568</b> |

**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**ASSUMPTION**

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (CTS)** state this proposal would allow an increase in the surcharge imposed upon civil actions from \$2 to \$4, which provides for domestic violence shelters.

Based on FY 2012 data, there are approximately 33,284 filed civil cases. We anticipate the increase in the surcharge would be approximately \$66,568 in any given year.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** state there is no direct fiscal impact on their agency. The money raised by this fee is administered and expended by the various county governments at the local level.

Officials from the counties of Boone, Callaway, Cass, Greene, Jefferson, and Johnson did not respond to our request for fiscal impact.

**Oversight** will reflect ten months of impact in FY 2014.

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>  | FY 2014<br>(10 Mo.)    | FY 2015                | FY 2016                |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|  | <u>\$0</u>             | <u>\$0</u>             | <u>\$0</u>             |
|  |                        |                        |                        |
| <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>  | FY 2014<br>(10 Mo.)    | FY 2015                | FY 2016                |
| <b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>  |                        |                        |                        |
| <u>Income</u> - counties for domestic violence shelters - increase of surcharge imposed upon civil actions from \$2 to \$4 | <u>\$55,473</u>        | <u>\$66,568</u>        | <u>\$66,568</u>        |
| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>  | <b><u>\$55,473</u></b> | <b><u>\$66,568</u></b> | <b><u>\$66,568</u></b> |

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the governing body of any county and the City of St Louis may impose, by order or ordinance, a surcharge of \$2 upon the filing of a civil action in the circuit court to be used to provide financial assistance to shelters for victims of domestic violence.

This bill increases the surcharge to \$4.

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  
Department of Social Services

**Not Responding:**

Boone County  
Callaway County  
Cass County  
Greene County  
Jefferson County  
Johnson County



Ross Strope  
Acting Director  
March 1, 2013