

Judiciary Committee

HB 2063

Title: An act relating to providing methods of funding county law libraries other than through civil filing fees.

Brief Description: Providing methods of funding county law libraries other than through civil filing fees.

Sponsors: Representative Carrell.

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Expresses legislative intent to find increased efficiencies in the operation of county law libraries and to find alternative sources of funding.*

Hearing Date: 2/23/01

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background:

Each county with a population of 8,000 or more is required to maintain a county law library. The library is governed by a board of trustees. Smaller counties may have a law library which is run by the prosecuting attorney. Counties may also join to form a regional law library. In a county where a library is required, a "suitable" room with adequate heat, light, and janitorial services must be provided by the county. In a county of 300,000 population or more, the law library must be free to all users. In smaller counties, libraries must be free for judges, county officials, lawyers, and any others as determined by the law library board.

Funding for law libraries is through portions of the civil filing fees in superior and district courts. Twelve dollars of every new probate or civil filing fee collected in superior court and \$6 of every civil filing fee collected in district court are to be used for the support of the county law library. Upon approval of the library board of trustees and the county legislative authority, the fee in superior court may be increased to \$15.

Summary of Bill:

The Legislature declares its intent to find increased efficiencies in the operation of county law libraries and to find alternatives to civil filing fees as a funding source for those libraries.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.