
Judiciary Committee

SB 5253

Title: An act relating to increasing civil jury trial fees.

Brief Description: Increasing civil jury fees.

Sponsors: Senators McCaslin, Kline, Long, Constantine, Hewitt, Horn, Honeyford and Costa.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Raises the fee for demanding a jury in a civil trial in district court from \$50 to \$125.
- Raises the fee charged against a defendant convicted by a jury in a criminal trial in district court from \$25 to \$125.

Hearing Date: 2/21/02

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background:

A person who requests a jury in a civil trial in district court must pay a "jury demand" fee of \$50. (Juries consist of six persons in district court civil cases. The fee for a six-person civil jury in superior court is \$125.) The local treasurer remits 32 percent of the district court civil jury demand fee to the state for the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA).

A person who is convicted by a jury in a criminal trial in district court is charged a \$25 jury fee. (Juries consist of six persons in district court criminal trials. The fee for a six-person criminal jury in superior court is \$50.) This district court criminal trial jury fee is not subject to the PSEA assessment.

Summary of Bill:

The district court civil jury demand fee is increased from \$50 to \$125.

The district court criminal jury fee is increased from \$25 to \$125.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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