## E2SSB 5454 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Judiciary

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) The trial court improvement account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Expenditures from the account may be made only to fund improvements to trial courts, including but not limited to improvements in trial court staffing, programs, facilities, and services. Revenues to the account consist of amounts appropriated by the legislature from the judicial improvement subaccount of the public safety and education account pursuant to section 3(2) of this act. Only the administrator for the courts may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.
- (2) The administrator for the courts shall establish criteria by which applications for funds shall be submitted, approved, and funded. The criteria shall, at a minimum, include requirements for applicants to demonstrate the need for funding.
- **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.56.030 and 2002 c 49 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision and direction of the chief justice:

- (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for the improvement of the same;
- (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and determine the need for assistance by any court;

(3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and carry out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments of judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need of assistance;

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- (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be taken in respect thereto;
- (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and make recommendations in respect thereto;
- (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the offices connected therewith;
- (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report thereof to supreme court of this state;
- (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in RCW 2.56.060;
- (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice, a report of the activities of the administrator's office for the preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse security;
- (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and education of judicial personnel;
- (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district judge positions under a weighted caseload analysis that takes into account the time required to hear all the cases in a particular court and the amount of time existing judges have available to hear cases in that court. The results of the weighted caseload analysis shall be reviewed by the board for judicial administration which shall make recommendations to the legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that weighted caseload analysis become the basis for creating additional

district court positions, and recommendations should address that objective;

- (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan under chapter 2.14 RCW;
- (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the supreme court of this state;
- (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general understanding of child development, placement, and treatment resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of relevant statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW, cases, court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the abused or neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and made available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and service providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in statutes, court rules, or case law;
- (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in RCW 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons who act as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The curriculum shall be made available July 1, 1997, and include specialty sections on child development, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect, clinical and forensic investigative and interviewing techniques, family reconciliation and mediation services, and relevant statutory and legal requirements. The curriculum shall be made available to all superior court judges, court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad litem;
- (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of crimes of malicious harassment, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of RCW 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the special needs of malicious harassment victims. This curriculum shall be made available to all superior court and court of appeals judges and to all justices of the supreme court;
- (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice training commission and the commissions established under chapters 43.113, 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with youth of color and their families. The curriculum shall be available to all superior court judges and court commissioners assigned to juvenile court, and other

court personnel. Ethnic and cultural diversity training shall be provided annually so as to incorporate cultural sensitivity and awareness into the daily operation of juvenile courts statewide;

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- (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator shall promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall provide technical assistance to courts as required;
- (19) Develop a Washington family law handbook in accordance with RCW 2.56.180.
- (20) Administer funds in the trial court improvement account and make grants from the account under section 1 of this act.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.08.250 and 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 s 918 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) The money received by the state treasurer from fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, reimbursements or assessments by any court organized under Title 3 or 35 RCW, or chapter 2.08 RCW, shall be deposited in the public safety and education account which is hereby created in the state treasury. The legislature shall appropriate the funds in the account to promote traffic safety education, highway safety, criminal justice training, crime victims' compensation, judicial education, the judicial information system, civil representation of indigent persons, winter recreation parking, drug court operations, and state game programs. During the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2005, the legislature may appropriate moneys from the public safety and education account for purposes of appellate indigent defense and other operations of the office of public defense, the criminal litigation unit of the attorney general's office, the treatment alternatives to street crimes program, crime victims advocacy programs, justice information network telecommunication planning, treatment for supplemental security income clients, sexual assault treatment, operations of the office of administrator for the courts, security in the common schools, alternative school start-up grants, programs for disruptive students, criminal justice data collection, Washington state patrol criminal justice activities, drug court operations, unified family courts, local court backlog assistance, financial assistance to local jurisdictions for extraordinary costs incurred in the

adjudication of criminal cases, domestic violence treatment and related services, the department of corrections' costs in implementing chapter 196, Laws of 1999, reimbursement of local governments for costs associated with implementing criminal and civil justice legislation, the replacement of the department of corrections' offender-based tracking system, secure and semisecure crisis residential centers, HOPE beds, the family policy council and community public health and safety networks, the street youth program, public notification about registered sex offenders, and narcotics or methamphetamine-related enforcement, education, training, and drug and alcohol treatment services.

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- (2) The judicial improvement subaccount is created as a subaccount of the public safety and education account. The money received by the state treasurer from the increase in fees imposed by sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, and 14 of this act shall be deposited in the judicial improvement subaccount and shall be appropriated only for: (a) criminal indigent defense in the trial courts; (b) representation of parents in dependency and termination proceedings initiated by the state; (c) civil legal representation of indigent persons; and (d) deposit in the trial court improvement account under section 1 of this act.
- 22 Sec. 4. RCW 3.62.060 and 2003 c 222 s 15 are each amended to 23 read as follows:

Clerks of the district courts shall collect the following fees for their official services:

- (1) In any civil action commenced before or transferred to a district court, the plaintiff shall, at the time of such commencement or transfer, pay to such court a filing fee of ((thirty-one)) forty-three dollars plus any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. Any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in such action shall pay to the court a filing fee of forty-three dollars plus any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. No party shall be compelled to pay to the court any other fees or charges up to and including the rendition of judgment in the action other than those listed.
- (2) For issuing a writ of garnishment or other writ, or for filing an attorney issued writ of garnishment, a fee of ((six))twelve dollars.

1 (3) For filing a supplemental proceeding a fee of ((twelve))
2 twenty dollars.

- (4) For demanding a jury in a civil case a fee of ((fifty)) one hundred twenty-five dollars to be paid by the person demanding a jury.
- (5) For preparing a transcript of a judgment a fee of ((six)) twenty dollars.
- (6) For certifying any document on file or of record in the clerk's office a fee of five dollars.
- (7) For preparing the record of a case for appeal to superior court a fee of forty dollars including any costs of tape duplication as governed by the rules of appeal for courts of limited jurisdiction (RALJ).
- (8) For duplication of part or all of the electronic ((tape or tapes)) recording of a proceeding ten dollars per tape or other electronic storage medium.

The fees or charges imposed under this section shall be allowed as court costs whenever a judgment for costs is awarded.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 3.62 RCW to read as follows:

Upon conviction or a plea of guilty in any court organized under this title or Title 35 RCW, a defendant in a criminal case is liable for a fee of forty-three dollars. This fee shall be subject to division with the state under RCW 3.46.120(2), 3.50.100(2), 3.62.020(2), 3.62.040(2), and 35.20.220(2).

- Sec. 6. RCW 4.12.090 and 1969 ex.s. c 144 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) When an order is made transferring an action or proceeding for trial, the clerk of the court must transmit the pleadings and papers therein to the court to which it is transferred and charge a fee as provided in RCW 36.18.016. The costs and fees thereof and of filing the papers anew must be paid by the party at whose instance the order was made, except in the cases mentioned in RCW 4.12.030(1), in which case the plaintiff shall pay costs of transfer and, in addition thereto, if the court finds that the plaintiff could have determined the county of proper venue with reasonable diligence, it shall order the

plaintiff to pay the reasonable attorney's fee of the defendant for the changing of venue to the proper county. The court to which an action or proceeding is transferred has and exercises over the same the like jurisdiction as if it had been originally commenced therein.

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(2) In acting on any motion for dismissal without prejudice in a case where a motion for change of venue under subsection (1) of this section has been made, the court shall, if it determines the motion for change of venue proper, determine the amount of attorney's fee properly to be awarded to defendant and, if the action be dismissed, the attorney's fee shall be a setoff against any claim subsequently brought on the same cause of action.

## **Sec. 7.** RCW 10.46.190 and 1977 ex.s. c 248 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

Every person convicted of a crime or held to bail to keep the peace shall be liable to all the costs of the proceedings against him or her, including, when tried by a jury in the superior court or before a committing magistrate, a jury fee as provided for in civil actions((, and when tried by a jury before a committing magistrate, twenty-five dollars for jury fee,)) for which judgment shall be rendered and ((collection had as in cases of fines)) collected. The jury fee, when collected for a case tried by the superior court, shall be paid to the clerk((, to be by him)) and applied as the jury fee in civil cases is applied.

## Sec. 8. RCW 12.12.030 and 1981 c 260 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

After the appearance of the defendant, and before the ((<del>justice</del>)) judge shall proceed to enquire into the merits of the cause, either party may demand a jury to try the action, which jury shall be composed of six good and lawful persons having the qualifications of jurors in the superior court of the same county, unless the parties shall agree upon a lesser number: PROVIDED, That the party demanding the jury shall first pay to the ((<del>justice</del>)) <u>clerk of the court</u> the sum of <u>one hundred</u> twentyfive dollars, which shall be paid over by the ((<del>justice</del>)) <u>clerk</u> of the court to the county, and ((said)) such amount shall be taxed as costs against the losing party.

Sec. 9. RCW 12.40.020 and 1990 c 172 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

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A small claims action shall be commenced by the plaintiff filing a claim, in the form prescribed by RCW 12.40.050, in the small claims department. A filing fee of ((ten)) fourteen dollars plus any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035 shall be paid when the claim is filed. Any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in such action shall pay to the court a filing fee of fourteen dollars plus any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035.

**Sec. 10.** RCW 26.12.240 and 1993 c 435 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

A county may create a courthouse facilitator program to provide basic services to pro se litigants in family law cases. The legislative authority of any county may impose user fees or may impose a surcharge of up to ((ten)) twenty dollars on only those superior court cases filed under Title 26 RCW, or both, to pay for the expenses of the courthouse facilitator program. Fees collected under this section shall be collected and deposited in the same manner as other county funds are collected and deposited, and shall be maintained in a separate account to be used as provided in this section.

**Sec. 11.** RCW 27.24.070 and 1992 c 54 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

In each county pursuant to this chapter, the county treasurer shall deposit in the county or regional law library fund a sum equal to ((twelve)) seventeen dollars for every new probate or civil filing fee, including appeals and for every fee for filing a counterclaim, cross- claim, or third-party claim in any civil action, collected by the clerk of the superior court and ((six)) seven dollars for every fee collected for the commencement of a civil action and for the filing of a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in any civil action in district court for the support of the law library in that county or the regional law library to which the county belongs: PROVIDED, That upon a showing of need the ((twelve)) seventeen dollar contribution may be increased up to ((fifteen)) twenty dollars or in counties with multiple library sites up to thirty dollars upon the request of the law library board of trustees and with the approval of the county legislative body or bodies.

**Sec. 12.** RCW 36.18.012 and 2001 c 146 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the state for deposit in the public safety and education account under RCW 36.18.025.
- (2) The party filing a transcript or abstract of judgment or verdict from a United States court held in this state, or from the superior court of another county or from a district court in the county of issuance, shall pay at the time of filing a fee of ((fifteen)) twenty dollars.
- (3) The clerk shall collect a fee of twenty dollars for: Filing a paper not related to or a part of a proceeding, civil or criminal, or a probate matter, required or permitted to be filed in the clerk's office for which no other charge is provided by law.
- (4) If the defendant serves or files an answer to an unlawful detainer complaint under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW, the plaintiff shall pay before proceeding with the unlawful detainer action ((eighty)) one hundred twelve dollars.
- (5) For a restrictive covenant for filing a petition to strike discriminatory provisions in real estate under RCW 49.60.227 a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.
- (6) A fee of twenty dollars must be charged for filing a will only, when no probate of the will is contemplated.
- (7) A fee of ((two)) twenty dollars must be charged for filing a petition, written agreement, or written memorandum in a nonjudicial probate dispute under RCW 11.96A.220, if it is filed within an existing case in the same court.
- (8) A fee of thirty-five dollars must be charged for filing a petition regarding a common law lien under RCW 60.70.060.
- (9) For certification of delinquent taxes by a county treasurer under RCW 84.64.190, a fee of five dollars must be charged.
- (10) For the filing of a tax warrant for unpaid taxes or overpayment of benefits by any agency of the state of Washington,

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1 a fee of five dollars on or after July 22, 2001, and for the 2 filing of such a tax warrant or overpayment of benefits on or 3 after July 1, 2003, a fee of twenty dollars, of which forty-six 4 percent of the first five dollars is directed to the public 5 safety and education account established under RCW 43.08.250.

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- **Sec. 13.** RCW 36.18.016 and 2002 c 338 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) Revenue collected under this section is not subject to division under RCW 36.18.025 or 27.24.070.
- (2) For the filing of a petition for modification of a decree of dissolution or paternity, within the same case as the original action, a fee of ((twenty)) thirty-six dollars must be paid.
- (3)(a) The party making a demand for a jury of six in a civil action shall pay, at the time, a fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars; if the demand is for a jury of twelve, a fee of two hundred fifty dollars. If, after the party demands a jury of six and pays the required fee, any other party to the action requests a jury of twelve, an additional one hundred twenty-five dollar fee will be required of the party demanding the increased number of jurors.
- (b) Upon conviction in criminal cases a jury demand charge of ((fifty)) one hundred twenty-five dollars for a jury of six, or ((one)) two hundred fifty dollars for a jury of twelve may be imposed as costs under RCW 10.46.190.
- (4) For preparing((, transcribing, or certifying)) <u>a</u> certified copy of an instrument on file or of record in the clerk's office, ((with or without seal,)) for the first page or portion of the first page, a fee of ((two)) five dollars, and for each additional page or portion of a page, a fee of one dollar must be charged. For authenticating or exemplifying an instrument, a fee of ((one)) two dollars for each additional seal affixed must be charged. For preparing a copy of an instrument on file or of record in the clerk's office without a seal, a fee of fifty cents per page must be charged. When copying a document without a seal or file that is in an electronic format, a fee of twenty-five cents per page must be charged. For copies made on a compact disc, an additional fee of twenty dollars for each compact disc must be charged.

1 (5) For executing a certificate, with or without a seal, a 2 fee of two dollars must be charged.

- (6) For a garnishee defendant named in an affidavit for garnishment and for a writ of attachment, a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.
- (7) For filing a supplemental proceeding, a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.
- (8) For approving a bond, including justification on the bond, in other than civil actions and probate proceedings, a fee of two dollars must be charged.
- ((+8)) (9) For the issuance of a certificate of qualification and a certified copy of letters of administration, letters testamentary, or letters of guardianship, there must be a fee of two dollars.
- ((+9))) (10) For the preparation of a passport application, the clerk may collect an execution fee as authorized by the federal government.
- $((\frac{10}{10}))$  (11) For clerk's services such as processing exparte orders, performing historical searches, compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional record searches, the clerk may collect a fee not to exceed twenty dollars per hour or portion of an hour.
- ((<del>11)</del>)) <u>(12)</u> For duplicated recordings of court's proceedings there must be a fee of ten dollars for each audio tape and twenty-five dollars for each video tape <u>or other</u> <u>electronic storage medium</u>.
- (((12) For the filing of oaths and affirmations under chapter
  5.28 RCW, a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.))
- (13) ((For filing a disclaimer of interest under RCW 11.86.031(4), a fee of two dollars must be charged.
- 31 (14)) For registration of land titles, Torrens Act, under 32 RCW 65.12.780, a fee of ((five)) twenty dollars must be charged.
  - $((\frac{(15)}{(15)}))$  (14) For the issuance of extension of judgment under RCW 6.17.020 and chapter 9.94A RCW, a fee of  $(\frac{(one)}{(ten)})$  dollars must be charged.
- $((\frac{16}{10}))$  (15) A facilitator surcharge of  $(\frac{15}{10})$  up to twenty dollars must be charged as authorized under RCW 26.12.240.
- $((\frac{17}{17}))$  (16) For filing a water rights statement under RCW 90.03.180, a fee of twenty-five dollars must be charged.

1  $((\frac{18}{18}))$  (17) For filing a claim of frivolous lien under RCW 60.04.081, a fee of thirty-five dollars must be charged. 2

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(18) For preparation of a change of venue, a fee of twenty dollars must be charged by the originating court in addition to the per page charges in subsection (4) of this section.

(19) A service fee of three dollars for the first page and one dollar for each additional page must be charged for receiving faxed documents, pursuant to Washington state rules of court, general rule 17.

(((19))) (20) For preparation of clerk's papers under RAP 9.7, a fee of fifty cents per page must be charged.

 $((\frac{20}{20}))$  (21) For copies and reports produced at the local level as permitted by RCW 2.68.020 and supreme court policy, a variable fee must be charged.

(((21))) (22) Investment service charge and earnings under RCW 36.48.090 must be charged.

(((22))) (23) Costs for nonstatutory services rendered by clerk by authority of local ordinance or policy must be charged.

 $((\frac{23}{23}))$  (24) For filing a request for mandatory arbitration, a filing fee may be assessed against the party filing a statement of arbitrability not to exceed two hundred twenty dollars as established by authority of local ordinance. This charge shall be used solely to offset the cost of the mandatory arbitration program.

 $((\frac{24}{24}))$  (25) For filing a request for trial de novo of an arbitration award, a fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars as established by authority of local ordinance must be charged.

(26) For the filing of a will or codicil under the provisions of chapter 11.12 RCW, a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.

The revenue to counties from the fees established in this section shall be deemed to be complete reimbursement from the state for the state's share of benefits paid to the superior court judges of the state prior to the effective date of this section, and no claim shall lie against the state for such <u>benefi</u>ts.

**Sec. 14.** RCW 36.18.020 and 2000 c 9 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the state public safety and education account under RCW 36.18.025 and with the county or regional law library fund under RCW 27.24.070.
- (2) Clerks of superior courts shall collect the following fees for their official services:

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- (a) The party filing the first or initial paper in any civil action, including, but not limited to an action for restitution, adoption, or change of name, and any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in any such civil action, shall pay, at the time the paper is filed, a fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars except, in an unlawful detainer action under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW for which the plaintiff shall pay a case initiating filing fee of ((thirty)) forty-five dollars, or in proceedings filed under RCW 28A.225.030 alleging a violation of the compulsory attendance laws where the petitioner shall not pay a filing fee. The ((thirty)) forty-five dollar filing fee under this subsection for an unlawful detainer action shall not include an order to show cause or any other order or judgment except a default order or default judgment in an unlawful detainer action.
- (b) Any party, except a defendant in a criminal case, filing the first or initial paper on an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction or any party on any civil appeal, shall pay, when the paper is filed, a fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars.
- (c) For filing of a petition for judicial review as required under RCW 34.05.514 a filing fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars.
- (d) For filing of a petition for unlawful harassment under RCW 10.14.040 a filing fee of ((forty-one)) fifty-three dollars.
- (e) For filing the notice of debt due for the compensation of a crime victim under RCW 7.68.120(2)(a) a fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars.
- (f) In probate proceedings, the party instituting such proceedings, shall pay at the time of filing the first paper therein, a fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars.
- (g) For filing any petition to contest a will admitted to probate or a petition to admit a will which has been rejected, or a petition objecting to a written agreement or memorandum as

1 provided in RCW 11.96A.220, there shall be paid a fee of ((one)) 2 two hundred ((ten)) dollars.

- (h) Upon conviction or plea of guilty, upon failure to prosecute an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction as provided by law, or upon affirmance of a conviction by a court of limited jurisdiction, a defendant in a criminal case shall be liable for a fee of ((one)) two hundred ((ten)) dollars.
- (i) With the exception of demands for jury hereafter made and garnishments hereafter issued, civil actions and probate proceedings filed prior to midnight, July 1, 1972, shall be completed and governed by the fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 1972: PROVIDED, That no fee shall be assessed if an order of dismissal on the clerk's record be filed as provided by rule of the supreme court.
- (3) No fee shall be collected when a petition for relinquishment of parental rights is filed pursuant to RCW 26.33.080 or for forms and instructional brochures provided under RCW 26.50.030."
- 19 Correct the title.

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**EFFECT:** Removes provisions requiring the state to pay for one-half of district court and elected municipal court salaries and to pay 2.5 percent contribution in the supplemental retirement account for those judges.

Removes provisions establishing trial court improvement accounts in cities and counties; Establishes a trial court improvement account to be administered by AOC; AOC must establish criteria for disbursing funds, which must include a requirement that applicants demonstrate need.

Requires the revenue to the state from the increased fees to be deposited in a sub-account of the PSEA to be appropriated only for trial-level criminal indigent defense, parent representation in dependency and termination cases, civil legal services, and to fund the trial court improvement account.