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**Judiciary Committee**

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**HB 1597**

**Title:** An act relating to county law library funding.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing a filing fee surcharge for funding county law libraries.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lantz, Haler, Simpson, Fromhold, P. Sullivan, Shabro, Moeller, Dickerson, Darneille, McDermott and Hudgins.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Authorizes counties to impose a surcharge on filing fees of up to \$15 in superior court and \$6 in district court for the purpose of funding county law libraries.

**Hearing Date:** 2/16/05

**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. Counties may join to form a regional law library.

State law provides that \$12 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 \$12 contribution amount may be increased to \$15.

The filing fee for a civil cause of action in superior court is \$110, and in district court the filing fee is \$31.

**Summary of Bill:**

Counties are authorized to impose an additional surcharge for civil filing fees for the purpose of additional funding for county law libraries. Upon approval of the county law library board of trustees and the county legislative authority, a surcharge for civil filing fees may be imposed in an amount not to exceed \$15 for superior court and \$6 for district court.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.