

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## ESB 6608

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As of Second Reading

**Title:** An act relating to judicial stabilization trust account surcharges.

**Brief Description:** Changing judicial stabilization trust account surcharges.

**Sponsors:** Senators Harper, Pflug, Frockt, Kline and Eide.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

None.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill**

- Increases the amounts of temporary surcharges on fees collected by superior and district courts.

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**Staff:** Edie Adams (786-7180).

**Background:**

District and superior courts are authorized by statute to collect fees for court services. In 2009 the Legislature required the district and superior courts to collect the following temporary surcharges:

- for filing fees for civil actions in district court (other than small claims), the surcharge is \$20;
- for filing fees for small claims actions, the surcharge is \$10;
- for fees collected by county clerks for appellate review, the surcharge is \$30;
- for filing fees for the first or initial paper in appellate actions in superior court, the surcharge is \$20; and
- for other superior court filing fees (except for filing fees related to unlawful harassment and fees imposed on criminal defendants) the surcharge is \$30.

Seventy-five percent of these surcharges must be deposited in the Judicial Stabilization Trust Account, to be used for the support of judicial branch agencies. The remaining 25 percent of

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

the surcharges are retained by the counties. Local revenues from the surcharges on district court filing fees must be used to support local trial courts and court-related functions. The temporary surcharges expire on July 1, 2013.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The temporary surcharges, other than the surcharge for small claims actions, are all increased by \$10:

- for filing fees for civil actions in district court (other than small claims), the surcharge is \$30;
  - for fees collected by county clerks for appellate review, the surcharge is \$40;
  - for filing fees for the first or initial paper in appellate actions in superior court, the surcharge is \$30; and
  - for other superior court filing fees (except for filing fees related to unlawful harassment and fees imposed on criminal defendants) the surcharge is \$40.
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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 7, 2012.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

None.

**Persons Testifying:** None.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.