
Judiciary Committee

HB 1140

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

Brief Description: Extending surcharges on court filing fees for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account to July 1, 2021.

Sponsors: Representatives Jinkins, Rodne and Ormsby; by request of Board For Judicial Administration.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extends the expiration date for surcharges on court filing fees that are deposited into the Judicial Stabilization Trust Account until July 1, 2021.
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Hearing Date: 1/18/17

Staff: Audrey Frey (786-7289).

Background:

Superior and district courts are authorized by statute to collect filing fees and other fees for court services. Revenue from superior court filing fees is split with 46 percent going to the state and the remainder going to the county. Revenue from district court filing fees is split with 32 percent going to the state and the remainder going to the county.

Legislation enacted in 2009 authorized temporary surcharges on filing fees in superior and district courts. Superior court filings were subject to a \$30 surcharge, except filings of an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction, where the surcharge was \$20. District court filings were subject to a \$20 surcharge, except small claims filings, which were subject to a \$10 surcharge.

Legislation enacted in 2011 extended the expiration date for the surcharges until July 1, 2013, and split the revenue from the surcharges between the state and the county collecting the fee, with 75 percent going to the state and 25 percent going to the county. Local revenue going to the

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counties from the surcharges must be used to support local trial courts and court-related costs. Legislation enacted in 2012 increased the temporary surcharges on filing fees by \$10.

Legislation enacted in 2013 extended the expiration date for the surcharges until July 1, 2017, except for the surcharges on small claims filings.

State revenue from the surcharges must be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit into the Judicial Stabilization Trust Account (the Account). Expenditures from the Account may only be used for the support of judicial branch agencies.

Summary of Bill:

The expiration date for surcharges on superior court and district court filings is extended until July 1, 2021.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2017.