

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**CORRECTED  
FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1820 - SB 1502**

April 12, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Increases, from \$2.00 to \$4.00, the fee assessed by the Knox County Clerk which is earmarked for computer hardware purchases or other computer-related expenses. Requires counties to assess a \$4.00 fee on each new case to be earmarked for computer hardware purchases or other computer related expenses.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

On March 30, 2011, a fiscal note was issued estimating a fiscal impact as follows:

*Increase Local Revenue – Exceeds \$180,000/Permissive*

*Due to an incorrect assumption about the increase to local revenue, this impact was in error. Based upon additional information provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS), the estimated impact is:*

**(CORRECTED)**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$80,900**

**Increase Federal Expenditures – \$157,100**

**Increase Local Revenue – Exceeds \$419,800**

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the State Court Clerk's Association and DHS, there are more than 220,000 new cases, including Knox County, each year in circuit, chancery and probate court for which fees are collected.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts compiles statistics on criminal filings by the number of counts, not the number of cases. Each case may have multiple counts. The earmarked fee is assessed per case, not per count. Revenue would not be generated until fees are paid. There are no statistics maintained on the number of criminal cases or on the number of criminal cases on which fees are paid.

**HB 1820 - SB 1502 (CORRECTED)**

- Based on information provided by the State Court Clerk's Association, estimate assumes 90 percent of fees are collected for civil cases. The collection rate for criminal cases is unknown but is estimated to be not significant. The collection rate for petitions filed by DHS is estimated to be 100 percent.
- According to DHS, approximately 119,000 petitions are filed with county court clerks each year through the Child Support Program.
- DHS receives federal matching funds for the Child Support Program at a rate of 66 percent.
- Requiring court clerks to assess a \$4.00 fee for computer expenses in lieu of the current \$2.00 fee for data entry will result in an increase to state expenditures of \$80,920 (119,000 cases x \$2 x 34%) and an increase to federal expenditures of \$157,080 (119,000 cases x \$2 x 66%).
- Requiring court clerks to assess a \$4.00 fee for computer expenses in lieu of the current \$2.00 fee for data entry will result in an increase to local revenue estimated to exceed \$419,800 [(119,000 x \$2) + (101,000 x \$2 x 90%)]. All revenue will be dedicated to computer-related expenses.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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