

# JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

<b>Bill Number:</b> 1532 SHB	<b>Title:</b> Court Filing Fees	<b>Agency:</b> 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
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## Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>2021-23</b>	<b>2023-25</b>	<b>2025-27</b>
JSTA (16A) State	5,640,000	5,640,000	11,280,000	11,280,000	11,280,000
Local (Counties)	1,880,000	1,880,000	3,760,000	3,760,000	3,760,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,520,000</b>	<b>7,520,000</b>	<b>15,040,000</b>	<b>15,040,000</b>	<b>15,040,000</b>

### Estimated Expenditures from:

<b>STATE</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>2021-23</b>	<b>2023-25</b>	<b>2025-27</b>
FTE – Staff Years					
<b>Account</b>					
General Fund – State (001-1)					
State Subtotal					
<b>COUNTY</b>					
County FTE Staff Years					
<b>Account</b>					
Local - Counties					
Counties Subtotal					
<b>CITY</b>					
City FTE Staff Years					
<b>Account</b>					
Local – Cities					
Cities Subtotal					
Local Subtotal					
<b>Total Estimated Expenditures:</b>					

*The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form parts I-V

☐ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

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Agency Approval: Ramsey Radwan	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date:
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

## **Part II: Narrative Explanation**

This bill would remove the sunset date of July 1, 2021 for Judicial Stabilization Trust Account (JSTA) filing fee surcharges authorized under RCW 36.18.016, RCW 36.18.018 and RCW 36.18.020.

### **Part II.A – Brief Description of what the Measure does that has fiscal impact on the Courts**

Section 1(2)(a) – Would amend RCW 36.18.016 to remove the sunset date of July 1, 2021 for the \$30 JSTA surcharge on filing fees.

Section 2(4) – Would amend RCW 36.18.018 to remove the sunset date of July 1, 2021 for the \$40 JSTA surcharge on filing fees.

Section 3(5)(a) – Would amend RCW 36.18.020 to remove the sunset date of July 1, 2021 regarding distribution of the surcharge on filing fees.

### **II.B - Cash Receipt Impact**

#### Filing Fees

Superior and district courts are authorized to collect filing fees and other fees for court services. Revenue from superior court filing fees is distributed as 46 percent to the state and the residual to the county. Revenue from district court filing fees is distributed as 32 percent to the state and the residual to the county.

#### Surcharges on Filing Fees

Enacted legislation in 2009 authorized temporary surcharges on filing fees in superior and district courts. Superior court filings were subject to a \$30 surcharge, with the exception 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 2013 extended the sunset date for the surcharges though July 1, 2017.

Legislation enacted in 2017 extended the sunset date for the surcharges through July 1, 2021. This bill would remove the sunset date for these surcharges.

Revenue from these surcharges are directed to the State Treasurer for distribution into the Judicial Stabilization Trust Account (JSTA). Appropriations from this account are only provided to judicial branch agencies.

For purposes of this analysis and forecast, a moving average of revenue collections for Fiscal Year 2020 was used. This average amount is used to estimate Fiscal Year 2021 and ensuing fiscal year collections<sup>1</sup>. Thus, estimated JSTA revenue collections for the next four fiscal years are displayed as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 (to date) revenue was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on civil filings and revenue is unknown, and will create a reduction in expected revenue by the end of Fiscal Year 2021, and may impact Fiscal Year 2022 and ensuing years as well.

	State	County	Total
FY 2022	5,640,000	1,880,000	7,520,000
FY 2023	5,640,000	1,880,000	7,520,000
FY 2024	5,640,000	1,880,000	7,520,000
FY 2025	5,640,000	1,880,000	7,520,000

## II.C – Expenditures

None.

## Part III: Expenditure Detail

### III.A – Expenditures by Object or Purpose

	FY 2022	FY 2023	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
FTE – Staff Years					
A – Salaries & Wages					
B – Employee Benefits					
C – Prof. Service Contracts					
E – Goods and Services					
G – Travel					
J – Capital Outlays					
P – Debt Service					
<b>Total:</b>					

### III.B – Detail:

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2022	FY 2023	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
<b>Total FTE's</b>						

## Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

None.

## Part V: New Rule Making Required

None.