

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0114S.01I  
Bill No.: SB 18  
Subject: Civil Procedure; Courts; Fees; Libraries and Archives; Saint Louis City  
Type: Original  
Date: January 22, 2025

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Bill Summary: This proposal allows the circuit court of St. Louis City to collect a civil case filing fee of an amount not to exceed \$20, rather than \$15, for certain uses, including the maintenance of a law library.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>Up to \$130,117</b>	<b>Up to \$156,140</b>	<b>Up to \$156,140</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §488.426 – St. Louis City Circuit Court Civil Case Filing Fee

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state the proposed legislation allows the circuit court in St. Louis City to collect a fee not to exceed twenty dollars, rather than fifteen, to go toward the law library.

During the past five years there was an average of 11,031 circuit civil case filings, 5,021 domestic relations civil case filings and 15,176 associate civil and small claims civil case filings for a total of 31,228 case filings.

Based upon the increase in the collection fee not to exceed \$20.00, rather than \$15.00, to go toward the library, OSCA estimates the increase to be \$0 to \$156,140 (\$5 x 31,228).

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Budget and Planning** state this section appears to alter the scope of circuits to which certain surcharge authorizations apply, potentially impacting TSR.

**Oversight** assumes fees collected would go directly to the St. Louis City Circuit Court and will present a positive fiscal impact of \$0 to \$156,140 (\$5 x 31,228) annually. Oversight also assumes the provisions of this section will not create a material fiscal impact to local political subdivisions other than St. Louis City Circuit Court.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, various St. Louis City officials were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Revenue</u> – St. Louis City Circuit (\$488.426) - increase in fees for law library	Up to \$130,117	Up to \$156,140	Up to \$156,140
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>Up to \$130,117</u></b>	<b><u>Up to \$156,140</u></b>	<b><u>Up to \$156,140</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, any circuit court may collect a civil case filing surcharge of an amount not to exceed \$15 for the maintenance of a law library, the county's or circuit's family services and justice fund, or courtroom renovation and technology enhancement. If the circuit court reimburses the state for salaries of family court commissioners or is the circuit court in Jackson County, the surcharge may be up to \$20. This act provides that the circuit court in the City of St. Louis may charge a filing surcharge up to \$20. (§488.426)

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

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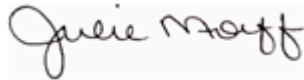
Page 5 of 5

January 22, 2025

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Administration - Budget and Planning

Office of the State Courts Administrator



Julie Morff

Director

January 22, 2025



Jessica Harris

Assistant Director

January 22, 2025