

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 1602

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the membership fee collected by the supreme court from
3 members of the state bar.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 81.054, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding subsection (f) as follows:

7 (f) The fees set by the supreme court in subsection (a)
8 shall include a fee of not less than \$65.00 for the provision of
9 civil legal services to the indigent. Fees collected under this
10 subsection shall be distributed to programs approved by the supreme
11 court that provide civil legal services to the indigent. The
12 supreme court shall annually review the membership fee to determine
13 whether the fee is sufficient to support the needs of indigent
14 individuals unable to obtain judicial access and related legal
15 services. In conducting its annual review, the supreme court shall
16 review recommendations of the Texas Access to Justice Commission
17 regarding priority unmet legal needs that restrict access to
18 justice for indigent persons.

19 SECTION 2. This act takes effect September 1, 2003.