

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**February 28, 2003**

**TO:** Honorable Glenn Lewis, Chair, House Committee on County Affairs

**FROM:** John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1037** by Ritter (Relating to a courthouse security fee collected in civil case filings.), **As Introduced**

**No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to allow the commissioners court to set a fee not to exceed \$10 to be collected at the time a civil case is filed in a county court, county court at law, or district court. The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

**Local Government Impact**

Under current statute, the commissioners court may set a fee not to exceed \$5 when civil cases are filed in the courts listed. The bill would double the maximum amount for which the fee could be set.

According to data in the fiscal year 2002 annual report by the Office of Court Administration, there were 651,656 new civil cases added to court dockets in fiscal year 2002. If the current \$5 fee was charged for each of those cases, courts statewide would have collected cumulatively almost \$3.3 million. If the fee allowed is doubled and the same number of civil cases are added to the docket each fiscal year, counties already collecting the \$5 maximum and that choose to charge a \$10 maximum under the revised statute, would experience an annual revenue gain of approximately \$3.3 million, for a total annual revenue from civil court case filing fees of approximately \$6.6 million. The revenue gain would vary by county based on the number of county, county court at law, and district courts in the county; the number of civil cases filed; and the amount of the fee set by the commissioners court.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office Of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

**LBB Staff:** JK, DLBa