

AN ACT

relating to temporary increases in the records archive fees and the records management and preservation fees charged by district and county clerks.

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

ARTICLE 1. FEES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

SECTION 1.01. Section 51.305(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The commissioners court of a county may adopt a district court records archive fee of not more than \$10 [~~\$5~~] for the filing of a suit, including an appeal from an inferior court, or a cross-action, counterclaim, intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party petition, in a district court in the county as part of the county's annual budget. The fee must be set and itemized in the county's budget as part of the budget preparation process and must be approved in a public meeting. The fee is for preservation and restoration services performed in connection with maintaining a district court records archive.

SECTION 1.02. Section 51.317(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The fees are:

(1) except as provided by Subsection (b-1), for filing a suit, including an appeal from an inferior court, \$50;

(2) for filing a cross-action, counterclaim,

1 intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party
2 petition, \$15;

3 (3) for issuing a citation or other writ or process not
4 otherwise provided for, including one copy, when requested at the
5 time a suit or action is filed, \$8;

6 (4) for records management and preservation, \$10; and

7 (5) in addition to the other fees imposed under this
8 section, for filing a suit, including an appeal from an inferior
9 court, or a cross-action, counterclaim, intervention, contempt
10 action, motion for new trial, or third-party petition, the amount
11 adopted by the county commissioners court, not to exceed \$10 [~~\$5~~],
12 for court records archiving.

13 SECTION 1.03. Section 101.0611, Government Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 101.0611. DISTRICT COURT FEES AND COSTS: GOVERNMENT
16 CODE. The clerk of a district court shall collect fees and costs
17 under the Government Code as follows:

18 (1) appellate judicial system filing fees for:

19 (A) First or Fourteenth Court of Appeals District
20 (Sec. 22.2021, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

21 (B) Second Court of Appeals District (Sec.
22 22.2031, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

23 (C) Third Court of Appeals District (Sec.
24 22.2041, Government Code) . . . \$5;

25 (D) Fourth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
26 22.2051, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

27 (E) Fifth Court of Appeals District (Sec.

1 22.2061, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
2 (E-1) Sixth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
3 22.2071, Government Code) . . . \$5;
4 (E-2) Seventh Court of Appeals District (Sec.
5 22.2081, Government Code) . . . \$5;
6 (F) Ninth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
7 22.2101, Government Code) . . . \$5;
8 (G) Eleventh Court of Appeals District (Sec.
9 22.2121, Government Code) . . . \$5;
10 (G-1) Twelfth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
11 22.2131, Government Code) . . . \$5; and
12 (H) Thirteenth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
13 22.2141, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
14 (2) when administering a case for the Rockwall County
15 Court at Law (Sec. 25.2012, Government Code) . . . civil fees and
16 court costs as if the case had been filed in district court;
17 (3) additional filing fees:
18 (A) for each suit filed for insurance contingency
19 fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.302,
20 Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;
21 (B) to fund the improvement of Dallas County
22 civil court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners
23 court (Sec. 51.705, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15;
24 (B-1) to fund the improvement of Bexar County
25 court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners court
26 (Sec. 51.706, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15;
27 (C) to fund the improvement of Hays County court

1 facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec.
2 51.707, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15; and

3 (D) to fund the preservation of court records
4 (Sec. 51.708, Government Code) . . . not more than \$10;

5 (4) for filing a suit, including an appeal from an
6 inferior court:

7 (A) for a suit with 10 or fewer plaintiffs (Sec.
8 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$50;

9 (B) for a suit with at least 11 but not more than
10 25 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$75;

11 (C) for a suit with at least 26 but not more than
12 100 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$100;

13 (D) for a suit with at least 101 but not more than
14 500 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$125;

15 (E) for a suit with at least 501 but not more than
16 1,000 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$150; or

17 (F) for a suit with more than 1,000 plaintiffs
18 (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$200;

19 (5) for filing a cross-action, counterclaim,
20 intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party
21 petition (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$15;

22 (6) for issuing a citation or other writ or process not
23 otherwise provided for, including one copy, when requested at the
24 time a suit or action is filed (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . .
25 \$8;

26 (7) for records management and preservation (Sec.
27 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$10;

1 (7-a) for district court records archiving, if adopted
2 by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.317(b)(5), Government
3 Code) . . . not more than \$10 [~~\$5~~];

4 (8) for issuing a subpoena, including one copy (Sec.
5 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$8;

6 (9) for issuing a citation, commission for deposition,
7 writ of execution, order of sale, writ of execution and order of
8 sale, writ of injunction, writ of garnishment, writ of attachment,
9 or writ of sequestration not provided for in Section 51.317, or any
10 other writ or process not otherwise provided for, including one
11 copy if required by law (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$8;

12 (10) for searching files or records to locate a cause
13 when the docket number is not provided (Sec. 51.318, Government
14 Code) . . . \$5;

15 (11) for searching files or records to ascertain the
16 existence of an instrument or record in the district clerk's office
17 (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$5;

18 (12) for abstracting a judgment (Sec. 51.318,
19 Government Code) . . . \$8;

20 (13) for approving a bond (Sec. 51.318, Government
21 Code) . . . \$4;

22 (14) for a certified copy of a record, judgment,
23 order, pleading, or paper on file or of record in the district
24 clerk's office, including certificate and seal, for each page or
25 part of a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . not to exceed
26 \$1;

27 (15) for a noncertified copy, for each page or part of

1 a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$1;

2 (16) fee for performing a service:

3 (A) related to the matter of the estate of a
4 deceased person (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee
5 allowed the county clerk for those services;

6 (B) related to the matter of a minor (Sec.
7 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee allowed the county
8 clerk for the service;

9 (C) of serving process by certified or registered
10 mail (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee a sheriff or
11 constable is authorized to charge for the service under Section
12 118.131, Local Government Code; and

13 (D) prescribed or authorized by law but for which
14 no fee is set (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . a reasonable fee;

15 (17) jury fee (Sec. 51.604, Government Code) . . .
16 \$30;

17 (18) additional filing fee for family protection on
18 filing a suit for dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family
19 Code (Sec. 51.961, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$15;

20 (19) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Dallas
21 County, a court cost to preserve the record, in the absence of a
22 court reporter, by other means (Sec. 54.509, Government Code) . . .
23 as assessed by the referring court or associate judge; and

24 (20) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Duval
25 County, a court cost to preserve the record (Sec. 54.1151,
26 Government Code) . . . as imposed by the referring court or
27 associate judge.

1 SECTION 1.04. Sections 118.011(b) and (f), Local Government
2 Code, are amended to read as follows:

3 (b) The county clerk may set and collect the following fee
4 from any person:

5 (1) Returned Check (Sec. 118.0215) not less
6 than \$15 or more than \$30

7 (2) Records Management and Preservation Fee (Sec.
8 118.0216) not more than \$10 [~~\$5~~]

9 (3) Mental Health Background Check for License to
10 Carry a Concealed Weapon (Sec. 118.0217) not more than \$2

11 (f) The county clerk of a county shall, if the commissioners
12 court of the county adopts the fee as part of the county's annual
13 budget, collect the following fee from any person:

14 Records Archive Fee (Sec. 118.025) not more
15 than \$10 [~~\$5~~]

16 SECTION 1.05. The changes in law made by this article apply
17 only to a fee that becomes payable on or after September 1, 2013. A
18 fee that becomes payable before September 1, 2013, is governed by
19 the law in effect when the fee became payable, and the former law is
20 continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 1.06. This article takes effect September 1, 2013.

22 ARTICLE 2. FEES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

23 SECTION 2.01. Section 51.305(b), Government Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (b) The commissioners court of a county may adopt a district
26 court records archive fee of not more than \$5 for the filing of a
27 suit, including an appeal from an inferior court, or a

1 cross-action, counterclaim, intervention, contempt action, motion
2 for new trial, or third-party petition, in a district court in the
3 county as part of the county's annual budget. The fee must be set
4 and itemized in the county's budget as part of the budget
5 preparation process and must be approved in a public meeting. The
6 fee is for preservation and restoration services performed in
7 connection with maintaining a district court records archive.

8 SECTION 2.02. Section 51.317(b), Government Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (b) The fees are:

11 (1) except as provided by Subsection (b-1), for filing
12 a suit, including an appeal from an inferior court, \$50;

13 (2) for filing a cross-action, counterclaim,
14 intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party
15 petition, \$15;

16 (3) for issuing a citation or other writ or process not
17 otherwise provided for, including one copy, when requested at the
18 time a suit or action is filed, \$8;

19 (4) for records management and preservation, \$10; and

20 (5) in addition to the other fees imposed under this
21 section, for filing a suit, including an appeal from an inferior
22 court, or a cross-action, counterclaim, intervention, contempt
23 action, motion for new trial, or third-party petition, the amount
24 adopted by the county commissioners court, not to exceed \$5, for
25 court records archiving.

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2 SECTION 2.05. The changes in law made by this article apply
3 only to a fee that becomes payable on or after September 1, 2019. A
4 fee that becomes payable before September 1, 2019, is governed by
5 the law in effect when the fee became payable, and the former law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 2.06. This article takes effect September 1, 2019.

8 ARTICLE 3. CONFLICT WITH OTHER LEGISLATION

9 SECTION 3.01. To the extent of any conflict, this Act
10 prevails over another Act of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session,
11 2013, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in
12 enacted codes.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1513 was passed by the House on April 12, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 131, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1513 on May 23, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1513 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor