

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 29, 2013**

**TO:** Honorable Royce West, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** SB1147 by West (Relating to the electronic filing system established by rule or order of the Texas Supreme Court; authorizing fees.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

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

This bill would amend the Government Code, Chapter 72 to permit the Office of Court Administration (OCA), as authorized by Supreme Court rule or order, to implement an electronic filing system for use in the courts of the state. The bill would permit OCA to set fees up to \$4 for each electronic filing transaction to recover the system operating costs. The bill permits an appellate court or local government that uses the electronic filing system to charge up to \$2 for each electronic transaction for cost recovery and to accept electronic payment methods, including payments made with credit and debit cards. The bill sets a September 2019 expiration date for authorized fees and requires OCA to file a report with certain legislative members in 2018 on the number of local governments participating in electronic filing and the necessity of continuing fees.

The OCA and the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) do not anticipate a significant impact on state revenues and indicate that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within each agency's existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill authorizes a local government or appellate court that uses the electronic filing system to charge a fee of \$2 for each electronic filing transaction. Since local governments are currently authorized by Section 2054.111(e) to charge a fee for use of the current electronic filing system, it is not expected that the \$2 fee authorized by the bill will have a significant fiscal impact on local government.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304  
Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** UP, CL, ZS, JJO, JP, KKR