

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 29, 2013

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

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1891 by Watson (Relating to the imposition of an additional fee for filing civil cases in certain Travis County courts.), **As Introduced**

<p>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p>
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The bill would amend the Government Code to authorize clerks of the district and probate courts, and county courts at law in Travis County to collect a filing fee of not more than \$15 in each civil case filed to be used for the construction, renovation, or improvement of facilities that house the Travis County civil courts. The fees would begin October 1, if the commissioners court adopts a resolution authorizing the fee; adopts a resolution requiring the county to spend one dollar for each dollar spent from the special dedicated account; and files the resolutions with the county treasurer or other official not later than September 1. The bill would require the fee to be abolished either when the resolution is rescinded or by October 1, 2028, whichever is earlier.

According to the Office of Court Administration, none of the proposed filing fee would be directed to the State; therefore, no significant fiscal impact on the State.

The bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house. If the bill does not receive the votes required to pass, the bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

Local Government Impact

The Comptroller of Public Accounts contacted Travis County to determine the potential fiscal impact of the bill on the County. Travis County stated the bill would generate \$360,180 per year in revenue for fiscal years 2014-18 if the \$15 fee is imposed. Travis County also stated that there would be no start-up costs or new technology costs assuming 24,012 cases per year are filed. Travis County would implement the fee change on October 1 when its fiscal year begins.

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

LBB Staff: UP, CL, TP, JJO