

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 691

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the fees collected by justices of the peace on the  
3 filing of certain civil actions to fund a law library.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 101.151(a), Government Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) A justice of the peace shall collect the following fees  
8 under the Local Government Code:

9 (1) services rendered before judgment (Secs. 118.121  
10 and 118.122, Local Government Code):

11 (A) justice court (Sec. 118.121, Local  
12 Government Code) . . . \$25; and

13 (B) small claims court (Sec. 118.121, Local  
14 Government Code) . . . \$25; ~~and~~

15 (2) services rendered after judgment (Secs. 118.121  
16 and 118.123, Local Government Code):

17 (A) transcript (Sec. 118.121, Local Government  
18 Code) . . . \$10;

19 (B) abstract of judgment (Sec. 118.121, Local  
20 Government Code) . . . \$5;

21 (C) execution, order of sale, writ of  
22 restitution, or other writ or process (Sec. 118.121, Local  
23 Government Code) . . . \$5 per page;

24 (D) certified copy of court papers (Secs. 118.121

1 and 118.1235, Local Government Code) . . . \$2 for first page; \$0.25  
2 for each additional page; and

3 (E) issuing other document (no return required)  
4 (Sec. 118.121, Local Government Code) . . . \$1 for first page;  
5 \$0.25 for each additional page; and

6 (3) court cost in civil cases in which the amount in  
7 controversy exceeds \$4,999 but does not exceed \$10,000, other than  
8 suits for delinquent taxes, to fund the county law library fund, if  
9 authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 323.023, Local  
10 Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$35.

11 SECTION 2. Section 323.023(a), Local Government Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (a) A sum set by the commissioners court not to exceed \$35  
14 shall be taxed, collected, and paid as other costs in each civil  
15 case filed in a county or district court and in each civil case  
16 filed in a justice court in which the amount in controversy exceeds  
17 \$4,999 but does not exceed \$10,000 [~~except suits for delinquent~~  
18 ~~taxes. The county is not liable for the costs~~].

19 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
20 to a civil action filed in a justice court on or after the effective  
21 date of this Act. A civil action filed before that date is governed  
22 by the law in effect on the date the action was filed, and the former  
23 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.