

HB 1891 -- LAW LIBRARY SURCHARGE

SPONSOR: Wessels

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, the circuit court in any circuit may collect a fee in civil cases not to exceed \$15, and that fee shall go toward maintenance and upkeep of the law library in the designated county. This bill allows Jackson County and any circuit that reimburses the state for salaries of family court commissioners to charge a fee up to \$20. The bill adds the circuit court in the city of St. Louis to the circuits that may charge a fee up to \$20.

This bill is the same as HB 1324 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the last time the surcharge was increased was in 1996, and there are exceptions to those who have to pay the surcharge. The cost of publications and legal databases have increased, but the surcharge has not. There have been fewer filings in the city of St. Louis because of venue reform from 2005.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wessels and Gail Wechsler, Law Library Association of St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are providing the committee with analyses done on the surcharges, and they are available as a resource if anyone has any questions.

Testifying on the bill was The Missouri Bar.