

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2053

As Amended by House Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2053, as amended, would amend law related to the collection of debts owed to courts. The bill would require the cost of collection of debts owed to courts be paid by the person owing the debt as an additional court cost in all cases where a person is ordered to pay any amount ordered by the court, such person fails to pay, and the court contracts with an agent to collect the debt. Under current law, the cost of collection is paid by the defendant as an additional court cost only in criminal, traffic, and juvenile offender cases.

Background

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Judiciary. As introduced, the bill would have added domestic cases to the list of case types for which the cost of collection is paid as an additional court cost. At the hearing before the House Committee, an attorney who contracts with judicial districts to collect court debts testified in support of the bill. No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to strike the list of case types in which the cost of collection is paid as an additional court cost and to instead apply this requirement to all cases.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill could increase

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

the number of cases being referred to collections, thereby increasing revenues to the Judicial Branch and local governments from the collection of court costs. However, a precise estimate of revenues that may be collected could not be determined.