

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 56

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

SB 56, as amended, would amend the law regarding the library fee clerks of the district courts are authorized to collect for the benefit and account of the law library in each county. The bill would allow all counties to impose an additional library fee, as determined by the trustees of the law library, not to exceed \$4.00 in all cases. The additional library fee would be a fee added on to the docket fees already established in law and would have statewide application.

Background

The docket fee is a uniform fee paid to the court by a party for the cost of services in the litigation. The law provides that certain state and local entities will receive a specified portion of the docket fees and that the balance will be credited to the State Treasury. The county law library fund is a fund that receives revenues from the initial distribution of the district court docket fee.

The proponent of the bill included John Pickett, Director of the Johnson County Law Library. Lee Woodward, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sedgwick County Law Library, provided written testimony in support of the bill. Mr. Woodward notified the Committee that the Sedgwick County Law Library, Inc. also supports HB 2073 which provides for additional law library funding with an add on fee of not more than \$4.00 to the existing docket fee. The other difference between SB 56 and HB 2073 is that SB 56, as introduced, has statewide application while HB 2073, as introduced applies only to Sedgwick and Johnson counties.

There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

*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 bill, as introduced, would have increased the amount deducted from docket fees for the benefit of law libraries and would have resulted in a corresponding decrease in revenues to funds administered by the Judiciary, including the State General Fund. The Committee amended the bill to provide for additional law library funding with an add on fee of not more than \$4.00 to the existing docket fee.

The fiscal note on the bill as introduced from the Division of Budget states that, according to the Office of Judicial Administration, passage of the bill would