

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 51

As Amended by Senate Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

SB 51, as amended, would make permanent the judicial branch surcharge the Legislature authorized in 2010 Senate Sub. for HB 2476 to fund non-judicial personnel.

(Note: the bill appears to raise the docket fee for a petition for expungement, but this change is current law, enacted by 2014 Senate Sub. for HB 2338 and included in this bill to reconcile different versions of the statutes in which the provision appears.)

Background

The Senate Judiciary Committee introduced SB 51 at the request of the Kansas Judicial Branch. As introduced, the bill would have extended the sunset provision on judicial surcharges on a number of docket fees through July 1, 2017.

In the Senate Judiciary Committee, a representative of the Judicial Branch and a representative of the Kansas District Judges Association testified in support of the bill. The Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas Association for Justice, and the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel submitted written testimony in support of the bill. No neutral or opponent testimony was provided to the Senate Committee.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove the sunset provision, making the surcharges a permanent source of funding.

*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates its budget would be reduced by \$9.5 million each fiscal year if the bill is not enacted.

Expenditures from the Judicial Branch surcharge are reflected in the *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report* with estimated revenues to the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund of \$9.5 million in both FY 2016 and FY 2017.