

HB 875 -- PROBATION AND PAROLE FEES

SPONSOR: Moore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill authorizes the Board of Probation and Parole to charge offenders placed under the supervision of the board a fee of up to \$60 a month. All fees will be deposited into the Inmate Fund within the state treasury and may be used for community corrections and intervention services for offenders. The board will adopt rules sanctioning offenders for nonpayment and establishing, waiving, collecting, and using the fees.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the moneys collected from these monthly fees will be used for community corrections and treatment programs. Currently, these programs cost the state around \$7 million annually; and due to budget constraints, many of these programs are being cut. The Department of Corrections believes that even though the bill allows them to access up to \$60 per month, the assessments will only be about half that amount.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Moore; and Department of Corrections.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it needs to be more specific in regards to sanctions for those not paying their assessments, and probationers should take a means test to determine their ability to pay.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Association for Social Welfare.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst