

HB 370 -- Municipal Traffic Violations

Sponsor: Cox

This bill allows any municipality, by ordinance, to assess an additional surcharge in an amount of up to \$7 per case for each municipal traffic violation case. No additional surcharge can be collected in a municipal traffic violation proceeding when the proceeding or defendant has been dismissed by the court.

A judge may waive the assessment of the additional surcharge if the defendant is found by the court to be indigent and unable to pay the cost.

The additional surcharge must be calculated by the clerk and disbursed to the municipality at least monthly. The municipality must use the additional costs to fund legal representation for indigent veterans in civil matters involving housing, public benefits, domestic violence, family law, and health, except 50% of the costs may be used to fund representation of indigent individuals in civil matters. The municipality must contract with a not-for-profit legal aid organization for these legal services.