

HCS SS SCS SB 67 -- COURT COSTS

SPONSOR: Cunningham (Rhoads)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill provides that a surcharge of up to \$10 may be collected in all civil and criminal proceedings, excluding violations of traffic laws or ordinances, filed in Howell County. In criminal cases the surcharge must first be authorized by a county or municipal order, ordinance, or resolution. The moneys collected from the surcharge must be used for the costs associated with the land assemblage, construction, maintenance, and operation of any county or municipal judicial facility. The county or municipality must maintain a separate account known as the justice center fund which is limited to the uses specified in the bill.

The bill authorizes a court case surcharge of \$1.00 in the counties comprising the Ozark Regional Juvenile Detention District (Christian, Douglas, Ozark, Taney, and Wright) for the repair, maintenance, and operation of any regional juvenile detention district facility including utilities and building security.

The bill authorizes a court case surcharge in Jasper County for the purchase, lease, and operation of a county juvenile center and for the county judicial facility, including utilities, maintenance, and building security. The amount of the surcharge varies, depending upon the type of case.

Each of these surcharges has a sunset date of August 28, 2025.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Howell County Courthouse is in very poor, potentially unsafe condition, and the bill is necessary to generate revenue for repair and maintenance.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Cunningham.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.