

HB 143 -- LAW LIBRARY FUND SURCHARGE

SPONSOR: DeGroot

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 2.

Currently, the circuit court in any circuit may collect a fee in civil cases not to exceed \$15, and that fee shall go toward maintenance and upkeep of the law library in the designated county. Jackson County and any circuit that reimburses the state for salaries of family court commissioners are allowed to charge a fee not to exceed \$20. The bill adds the Circuit Court in the city of St. Louis to the circuits that may charge a fee not to exceed \$20.

This bill is the same as HB 1554 (2020) and HB 124 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that libraries with actual books are still needed, especially by small law offices and solo practitioners.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Degroot; Robert H. Dierker, Law Library Association of St. Louis; and Nicholas Weil, Nicholas H. Weil, Esq..

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this is just another tax and fee on the people of the City of St. Louis.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.