

Fiscal Estimate — 2001 Session

- Original Updated
 Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number -1134/1	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number AB 45	Administrative Rule Number

Subject
 Circuit Court Witness Fees

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
 Create New Appropriation

- Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.
 Yes No
 Decrease Costs

Local: No Local Government Costs

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
2. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
4. Decrease Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
 Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others _____
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected
 GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

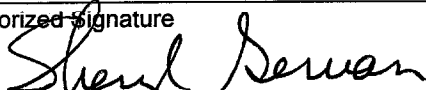
Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill permits county boards to establish a higher witness fee than the present mandatory \$16 a day for witnesses attending the circuit court.

Currently, witness fees are usually borne by the county in criminal cases and by the parties in civil cases. It is impossible to predict how many county boards would opt to do this and what the increase in county costs would be. In 1999, the counties reported that approximately \$780,000 was expended for witness fees. This amount would increase if county boards increase the fee. A similar provision currently exists with respect to the juror per diem which allows counties to exceed the minimum \$16 a day rate. Many counties have opted to exceed that rate and it is expected that some would also opt to exceed the present witness fee.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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