

**HF305 - 0 - Fees; Uncertified Copies, Court Proceedings**

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 Committee: **Judiciary Finance And Civil Law**  
 Date Completed: **1/23/2023 10:29:28 PM**  
 Agency: **Supreme Court**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	265	284	284	284	284
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>265</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>549</b>			<b>568</b>

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**LBO Analyst's Comment**

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

**LBO Signature:** Karen McKey    **Date:** 1/23/2023 10:29:28 PM  
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**State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details**

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		<b>Biennium</b>			<b>Biennium</b>	
<b>Dollars in Thousands</b>		<b>FY2023</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>
General Fund	-	265	284	284	284	284
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>
	<b>Biennial Total</b>		<b>549</b>			<b>568</b>
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
General Fund	-	(265)	(284)	(284)	(284)	(284)
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(265)</b>	<b>(284)</b>	<b>(284)</b>	<b>(284)</b>	<b>(284)</b>
	<b>Biennial Total</b>		<b>(549)</b>			<b>(568)</b>

**Bill Description**

This bill amends section 357.021, subd. 2, eliminating the \$8 plain copy fee and prohibiting any fee to be charged for an uncertified copy of an instrument from a civil or criminal proceeding.

**Assumptions**

The effective date is July 1, 2023.

An \$8 per document fee will not be charged for an uncertified copy of a district court document requested from at a court administrator’s office or from an online platform for public access to district court records. Court administration staff will continue to print copies of court documents as requested.

Uncertified copy fee revenue received in June 2023 will be credited to the state general fund in July 2023.

The uncertified copy fee schedules in the Judicial Branch case management system will be deactivated. Judicial Branch webpages with copy request and fee information, and procedural documentation will be updated. This work can be done within the normal course of business.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

On average for FY19-FY21, uncertified copy fee revenue was \$580,093 (\$694,038 in FY19; \$586,698 in FY20; and \$459,543 in FY21).

In FY22, the first full year of MCRO, uncertified copy fee revenue was \$317,009.

In FY23 the uncertified copy fee revenue for the first half of the year was \$130,662. The estimated uncertified copy fee revenue for FY23 is \$261,324 (\$130,662 x 2). The source of the significant decrease in revenue is unknown. It is reasonable to assume that the decrease in revenue is due, in part, to the availability of court documents through the MCRO application (17.4 million documents downloaded to date; 13.8 million were downloaded in CY2022).

The average for the actual and anticipated revenue for FY22 and FY23 is \$289,167 (\$317,009+ 261,324 = 578,333 divided by 2).

The estimated revenue decrease to the state general fund in FY24, taking cash flow into account, is at least \$265,067 (Average actual and anticipated revenue for FY22 and FY23 of \$289,167 divided by 12 months = \$24,097 per month x 11 months).

The estimated revenue decrease to the state general fund in FY25 and after is at least \$289,167.

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

The loss in revenue is permanent.

**Local Fiscal Impact**

**References/Sources**

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