

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Pilot program for Rice County mediation

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This bill allows the Rice County Board of Commissioners to expand its dispute resolution program to include a pilot program to provide mediation for low-income parties in marriage dissolution proceedings. To fund the mediation program, the district court in Rice County shall collect a \$3 surcharge on civil filing fees and a \$2 surcharge on payable citations. The amounts collected are available until expended. A report on the program is required to be submitted to the state court administrator and the legislature by March 15, 2017. The pilot program expires June 30, 2017.

Background: Civil filing fees are set at \$340 in dissolution actions and \$310 in all other civil actions. The criminal and petty misdemeanor surcharge is \$12 for parking offenses and \$75 for other offenses.