

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 54—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT)

PREFILED DECEMBER 20, 2012

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to fees charged and collected in justice courts. (BDR 1-388)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to courts; authorizing a board of county commissioners to impose by ordinance a filing fee relating to actions and proceedings in the justice court to offset the costs of operating a law library established in the county; requiring the county treasurer to deposit the filing fees received into a special account to be used to support the operation of such a law library; revising certain fees in the justice court; requiring the county treasurer to deposit a portion of such fees received from justice courts into a special account to be used for certain purposes; requiring the county treasurer to reduce annually the amount deposited into the special account in certain circumstances; requiring each justice court that collects fees to submit an annual report to the board of county commissioners; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law authorizes the board of county commissioners of any county to
- 2 establish by ordinance a law library to be governed and managed by a board of law
- 3 library trustees. (NRS 380.010) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes a board of county
- 4 commissioners to impose by ordinance a filing fee relating to actions and
- 5 proceedings in the justice court, in an amount not to exceed \$8, to offset a portion
- 6 of the costs of operating such a law library. **Section 1** also provides that in a county
- 7 in which such a fee has been imposed, the justice of the peace shall, on a monthly



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basis, pay to the county treasurer any such fees collected during the preceding month. The county treasurer is required to deposit the fees received into a special account administered by the county and maintained for the benefit of such a law library.

Existing law requires each justice of the peace to charge and collect certain fees for various civil actions, proceedings and filings in the justice court. For actions and proceedings other than small claims, the amount of the fees charged and collected is based upon the sum claimed in the action or proceeding. Each justice of the peace is required to pay to the county treasurer all such fees charged and collected, with certain exceptions. (NRS 4.060) **Section 1.5** of this bill increases the amount of certain fees charged and collected by the justice court and revises the tiers upon which certain fees are based.

Section 1.5 also requires the county treasurer to deposit 25 percent of the fees received from justices of the peace into a special account administered by the county and maintained for the benefit of each justice court within the county. The money in the account must be used only: (1) for purposes generally related to the acquisition of land or facilities or the construction or renovation of facilities for a justice court or a multi-use facility that includes a justice court; (2) to acquire advanced technology for the use of a justice court; (3) to acquire equipment or additional staff to enhance the security of the facilities used by a justice court, justices of the peace, staff of a justice court and residents of this State who access the justice courts; (4) to pay for the training of staff or the hiring of additional staff to support the operation of a justice court; and (5) to pay for one-time projects for the improvement of a justice court. **Section 1.5** also requires: (1) the county treasurer to reduce on an annual basis, if necessary, the amount deposited into the special account in certain circumstances; and (2) each justice court that collects fees to submit to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the justice court is located an annual report that contains certain information.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 4 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. In addition to any other fee required by law, a board of county commissioners may impose by ordinance a filing fee to offset a portion of the costs of operating a law library established in that county by the board of county commissioners pursuant to NRS 380.010, in an amount not to exceed \$8, to be paid on the commencement of any action or proceeding in the justice court for which a filing fee is required and on the filing of any answer or appearance in any such action or proceeding for which a filing fee is required.

2. On or before the fifth day of each month, in a county in which a fee has been imposed pursuant to subsection 1, the justice of the peace shall account for and pay over to the county treasurer any such fees collected by the justice of the peace during the preceding month. The county treasurer shall deposit the fees received into a special account administered by the county and



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maintained for the benefit of a law library established pursuant to NRS 380.010. The money in the account must be used only to support the operation of such a law library.

Sec. 1.5. NRS 4.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.060 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 33.017 to 33.100, inclusive, each justice of the peace shall charge and collect the following fees:

(a) On the commencement of any action or proceeding in the justice court, other than in actions commenced pursuant to chapter 73 of NRS, to be paid by the party commencing the action:

If the sum claimed does not exceed 1 \$1,000	28.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$1,000 but does not exceed \$2,500	50.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$2,500 but does not exceed 4,500 \$5,000	100.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$4,500 but does not exceed \$6,500	125.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$6,500 but does not exceed \$7,500	150.00
If the sum claimed exceeds 7,500 \$5,000 but does not exceed \$10,000	175.00
<i>In a civil action for unlawful detainer pursuant to NRS 40.290 to 40.420, inclusive, in which a notice to quit has been served pursuant to NRS 40.255</i>	<i>225.00</i>
In all other civil actions	28.00 50.00

(b) For the preparation and filing of an affidavit and order in an action commenced pursuant to chapter 73 of NRS:

If the sum claimed does not exceed \$1,000	25.00 45.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$1,000 but does not exceed \$2,500	45.00 65.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$2,500 but does not exceed \$5,000	65.00 85.00
If the sum claimed exceeds \$5,000 but does not exceed \$7,500	125.00

(c) On the appearance of any defendant, or any number of defendants answering jointly, to be paid by the defendant or defendants on filing the first paper in the action, or at the time of appearance:



1	In all civil actions	[\$12.00]	\$50.00
2	For every additional defendant, appearing		
3	separately.....	[\$6.00]	25.00
4			
5	(d) No fee may be charged where a defendant or defendants		
6	appear in response to an affidavit and order issued pursuant to the		
7	provisions of chapter 73 of NRS.		
8	(e) For the filing of any paper in intervention	[\$6.00]	\$25.00
9	(f) For the issuance of any writ of attachment,		
10	writ of garnishment, writ of execution or any other		
11	writ designed to enforce any judgment of the court		
12	<i>, other than a writ of restitution</i>	[\$6.00]	\$25.00
13	(g) <i>For the issuance of any writ of restitution</i>		\$75.00
14	(h) For filing a notice of appeal, and appeal		
15	bonds.....	[\$12.00]	\$25.00
16	One charge only may be made if both		
17	papers are filed at the same time.		
18	[(h)] (i) For issuing supersedeas to a writ		
19	designed to enforce a judgment or order of the		
20	court	[\$12.00]	\$25.00
21	[(i)] (j) For preparation and transmittal of		
22	transcript and papers on appeal.....	[\$12.00]	\$25.00
23	[(j)] (k) For celebrating a marriage and		
24	returning the certificate to the county recorder or		
25	county clerk.....		\$50.00
26	[(k)] (l) For entering judgment by confession	[\$6.00]	\$50.00
27	[(l)] (m) For preparing any copy of any		
28	record, proceeding or paper, for each page.....	[\$.30]	\$1.00
29	[(m)] (n) For each certificate of the clerk,		
30	under the seal of the court.....		\$3.00
31	[(n)] (o) For searching records or files in his		
32	or her office, for each year.....		\$1.00
33	[(o)] (p) For filing and acting upon each bail		
34	or property bond.....	[\$40.00]	\$50.00
35	2. A justice of the peace shall not charge or collect any of the		
36	fees set forth in subsection 1 for any service rendered by the justice		
37	of the peace to the county in which his or her township is located.		
38	3. A justice of the peace shall not charge or collect the fee		
39	pursuant to paragraph [(k)] (k) of subsection 1 if the justice of the		
40	peace performs a marriage ceremony in a commissioner township.		
41	4. Except as otherwise provided by an ordinance adopted		
42	pursuant to the provisions of NRS 244.207, the justice of the peace		
43	shall, on or before the fifth day of each month, account for and pay		
44	to the county treasurer all fees collected <i>pursuant to subsection 1</i>		
45	during the preceding month, except for the fees the justice of the		



1 peace may retain as compensation and the fees the justice of the
2 peace is required to pay to the State Controller pursuant to
3 subsection 5.

4 5. The justice of the peace shall, on or before the fifth day of
5 each month, pay to the State Controller:

6 (a) An amount equal to \$5 of each fee collected pursuant to
7 paragraph ~~1(k)~~ (k) of subsection 1 during the preceding month. The
8 State Controller shall deposit the money in the Account for Aid for
9 Victims of Domestic Violence in the State General Fund.

10 (b) One-half of the fees collected pursuant to paragraph ~~1(p)~~ (p)
11 of subsection 1 during the preceding month. The State Controller
12 shall deposit the money in the Fund for the Compensation of
13 Victims of Crime.

14 6. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, the county*
15 *treasurer shall deposit 25 percent of the fees received pursuant to*
16 *subsection 4 into a special account administered by the county and*
17 *maintained for the benefit of each justice court within the county.*
18 *The money in that account must be used only to:*

19 (a) *Acquire land on which to construct additional facilities or*
20 *a portion of a facility for a justice court or a multi-use facility that*
21 *includes a justice court;*

22 (b) *Construct or acquire additional facilities or a portion of a*
23 *facility for a justice court or a multi-use facility that includes a*
24 *justice court;*

25 (c) *Renovate, remodel or expand existing facilities or a portion*
26 *of an existing facility for a justice court or a multi-use facility that*
27 *includes a justice court;*

28 (d) *Acquire furniture, fixtures and equipment necessitated by*
29 *the construction or acquisition of additional facilities or a portion*
30 *of a facility or the renovation, remodeling or expansion of an*
31 *existing facility or a portion of an existing facility for a justice*
32 *court or a multi-use facility that includes a justice court;*

33 (e) *Acquire advanced technology for the use of a justice court;*

34 (f) *Acquire equipment or additional staff to enhance the*
35 *security of the facilities used by a justice court, justices of the*
36 *peace, staff of a justice court and residents of this State who*
37 *access the justice courts;*

38 (g) *Pay for the training of staff or the hiring of additional staff*
39 *to support the operation of a justice court;*

40 (h) *Pay debt service on any bonds issued pursuant to*
41 *subsection 3 of NRS 350.020 for the acquisition of land or*
42 *facilities or for the construction, renovation, remodeling or*
43 *expansion of facilities for a justice court or a multi-use facility*
44 *that includes a justice court; and*



1 (i) *Pay for one-time projects for the improvement of a justice*
2 *court.*

3 ↪ *Any money remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year*
4 *must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.*

5 7. *The county treasurer shall, if necessary, reduce on an*
6 *annual basis the amount deposited into the special account*
7 *pursuant to subsection 6 to ensure that the total amount of fees*
8 *collected by a justice court pursuant to this section and paid by the*
9 *justice of the peace to the county treasurer pursuant to subsection*
10 *4 is, for any fiscal year, not less than the total amount of fees*
11 *collected by that justice court and paid by the justice of the peace*
12 *to the county treasurer for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012,*
13 *and ending June 30, 2013.*

14 8. *Each justice court that collects fees pursuant to this section*
15 *shall submit to the board of county commissioners of the county in*
16 *which the justice court is located an annual report that contains:*

17 (a) *An estimate of the amount of money that the county*
18 *treasurer will deposit into the special account pursuant to*
19 *subsection 6 from fees collected by the justice court for the*
20 *following fiscal year; and*

21 (b) *A proposal for any expenditures by the justice court from*
22 *the special account for the following fiscal year.*

23 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

