

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 12, 2007
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Dispute Resolution Council

BILL NUMBER: SB 396
AUTHOR: M. Ridley-Thomas

BILL SUMMARY: Civil Court Filing Fees

This bill would require the Judicial Council (Council) to establish an advisory commission on civil court fees that would make recommendations and report biennially to the Legislature on fee revenues, the effectiveness of the existing fee structure, and the funding needs of the entities that rely on civil court fee revenues.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) indicates that it could need to establish one position to act as the primary staff for the commission, which would cost between \$87,000 and \$185,000, depending on the position's classification. AOC staff indicate that the Judicial Branch would prioritize any request for these resources within its 2008-09 budget proposals.

COMMENTS

Existing law establishes a fee structure for filing various documents in connection with civil court litigation.

This bill would require the Council to do the following:

- Establish a commission on civil court fees with broad-based membership, to be appointed as specified.
Make recommendations to the Legislature, as appropriate, with respect to:
- The effectiveness of the existing fee structure.
- The funding needs of the entities that rely on civil court fee revenues.
Report to the Legislature on February 1 of each odd-numbered year on issues related to civil court fees, including:
- The effectiveness of the existing fee structure.
- Revenue performance.
- The funding needs of the entities that rely on filing fee revenues.

This bill would also state the Legislature's intent that the advisory commission review the level of funding needed to support dispute resolution programs and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding future allocations of civil court fee revenues to support those programs.

Analyst/Principal (0211) J. Carosone Date Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue Date

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	Code
0250/Jud Branch	SO	No	C	\$87 - 185	C	\$87 - 185	C	\$87 - 185	0001