

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS**

**AMENDMENT DATE:** April 9, 2007  
**POSITION:** Neutral

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 539  
**AUTHOR:** B. Margett

**BILL SUMMARY: Trial Court Trust Fund**

This bill would require the transmittal of Trial Court operations fees from a county to the state be made to the State Treasury, rather than to the State SCO's Office (SCO), for deposit to the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF), and would require that penalties for the delinquent transmittal of these fees be paid by the entity that caused the delinquency, as determined by the SCO.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The SCO and the Judicial Branch both indicate that any costs resulting from this bill would be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

**COMMENTS**

Existing law establishes various fees for court services and requires counties to remit specified portions of these fees to the SCO for deposit in the TCTF. In addition, it requires the SCO to calculate penalties on delinquent payments of these fees and for the counties to pay the penalties to the TCTF, and to seek reimbursement from the court.

This bill would instead require counties to remit their fee payments directly to the State Treasury, for deposit to the TCTF, rather than to the SCO. In addition, it would require the penalties calculated by the SCO for delinquent payment to be paid by the entity that causes the payment to be delinquent, whether it be the county, the city and county, or the court. It would allow the responsible entity to pay the penalty according to a payment schedule, as permitted by the SCO, when the penalty amount would cause a hardship to the paying entity.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2006-2007 FC	2007-2008 FC	2008-2009 FC			
0840/Controller	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001
0250/Jud Branch	LA	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0932
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0932	Trial Court Trust Fund								

Analyst/Principal (0211) J. Carosone	Date	Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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