STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21739

This bill would remove the sunset provision from the statute creating the emergency surcharge. In 2010, the Legislature met the challenge of maintaining the operation of the courts and providing access to justice for all despite the grave fiscal crisis by creating an emergency surcharge of $10 on each infraction, $50 on each misdemeanor, and $100 on each felony. 80% of these fees are deposited in the Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Family Court Services Fund, and 20% in the ISTARS Fund. The fee was imposed on all offenses committed from April 15, 2010, to June 30, 2013. Because of the continuing economic challenge, these funds continue to be needed to keep the courthouse doors open and maintain essential judicial functions. The courts will continue to monitor the emergency surcharge revenues to compare them to their projected levels of financing at the time the surcharge was enacted and to evaluate whether any other changes in the surcharge may be warranted.

FISCAL NOTE

It is estimated that the emergency surcharge will generate approximately $4,100,000 for FY 2014, with 80% being deposited in the Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Family Court Services Fund and 20% in the ISTARS Fund.

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