

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22846

This bill will provide necessary support for the implementation of a new technology solution for Idaho courts. The judiciary's twenty-five year old ISTARs system is nearly at "end of life" and must be replaced. The Odyssey system will modernize case management and enable the adoption of more effective business practices. Access to the courts and court records will also be greatly improved through the use of electronic filing, electronic storage of records, and video-conferencing.

An increase in filing fees in civil cases, along with multiple one-time general fund appropriations, will provide the funding for this transition. After analysis and consultation with the bar, court users, legislators and others, the consensus is to seek a graduated set of filing fees in civil cases. Accordingly, the bill provides for the following increases: for cases filed in the district court, an increase of \$125; for cases filed in the magistrate division, an increase of \$70; and for appearances filed by defendants in either the district court or the magistrate division, an increase of \$70. A \$20 fee will be added for a few types of filings for which no technology fee is currently charged. Other filings for which no technology fee is being charged shall remain exempt from such fees. The ISTARs Technology Fund will be renamed the Court Technology Fund. The bill will also require the Supreme Court to make an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of the Court Technology Fund, the enhancement of court technology, and savings and efficiencies resulting from the use of that technology.

FISCAL NOTE

It is estimated that revenues received by the Court Technology Fund would be increased by approximately \$5,466,000 annually. These funds will be expended pursuant to legislative appropriations to fund the Court's technology solutions.

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