

SUBJECT: Removing expiration date for electronic filing fees

COMMITTEE: Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Leach, Farrar, Y. Davis, Julie Johnson, Krause, Meyer, Neave, Smith, White

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Patti Henry, County and District Clerks' Association of Texas; Ken Olive, Harris County District Clerk; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Steve Perry, Chevron USA; Aimee Bertrand, Harris County Commissioners Court; Lee Loftis, Independent Insurance Agents of Texas; Lee Parsley, Texans for Lawsuit Reform; Carol Sims, Texas Civil Justice League; John Dahill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Aryn James, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Slayton, Office of Court Administration)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 72.031(c) authorizes local governments and appellate courts that use the state's electronic filing system to charge a fee of \$2 for each electronic filing transaction in order to recover system operating costs. This authority is set to expire September 1, 2019.

It has been suggested that there is still a need for this revenue to cover local governments' and appellate courts' operating costs for the electronic filing system.

DIGEST: HB 3553 would repeal the expiration date for the authorization for local governments and appellate courts that use the state's electronic filing system to charge a fee of \$2 for each electronic filing transaction.

HB 3553
House Research Organization
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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.