

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R2081 RVH-D

S.C.R. 21
By: Ellis
Jurisprudence
3/16/1999
Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST

Currently, increased clerical costs resulting from the greater record-keeping burden imposed on a court by a multiple-party lawsuit are borne by the court at taxpayer expense. On average, filing fees cover under half of the costs associated with court proceedings. Concern exists that court costs are unreasonably burdensome, that one filing fee for multiple plaintiffs or a class action suit places an undue burden on record-keeping activities, and that an increase in filing fees would restrict access to the courts. S.C.R. 21 directs the Office of Court Administration to report on the costs and feasibility of reassessing the filing fee rate.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.C.R. 21 submits the following resolutions:

That the Office of Court Administration is directed to report on the costs of filing multiple-party lawsuits, using sliding scales or aggregate filing fees, and to submit recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2001.

That the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the director of the Office of Court Administration.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Resolutions.

Amends the resolution to extend the deadline to January 1, 2001, for submission of a report and recommendations to the legislature.