



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

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Senate Judiciary

Testimony in Support of

SB 44 Electronic Filing and Management Fund

January 28, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 44, which would allow the Chief Justice to transfer amounts from the electronic management and filing fund to the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund during fiscal year 2015.

The 2014 Legislature passed Sen. Substitute for HB 2338, which created the Electronic Filing Management Fund for purposes of creating, implementing, and managing an electronic filing and centralized case management system for the state court system. In fiscal year 2015, statute directs that \$3.1 million of docket fee revenue be credited to the fund. Once the Electronic Filing and Management Fund receives \$3.1 million, the balance is credited to the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund. This same process is followed in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. During fiscal year 2018, the amount deposited into the Electronic Filing and Management Fund is reduced to \$1 million and the balance is credited to the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund.

The Judicial Branch FY 2015 budget request includes a supplemental request of \$3.6 million. Given the State's fiscal situation, the judiciary has been told that an additional State General Fund appropriation for the current year is not likely. Passage of SB 44 would allow the Judicial Branch to access money presently earmarked for e-filing and e-courts to be transferred into a fund where it may be used for operations. This transfer of funds would allow the Court to substantially fill the financial hole for this fiscal year.

The Court is committed to creating efficiencies by implementing technology in the state court system. Any transfer of funds would not impede progress in this fiscal year. Language in section 2 extends funding for the project by one year to hold the project funding harmless from any transfer that would occur.

Subsequent to the request for this bill, it was learned that the transfer language included in SB 44 will also be included in the FY 2015 rescission bill. While that would address the FY 2015 need for transfer authority, it would not address the one year extension of funding earmarked for technology needs. Therefore, that portion of SB 44 would still be needed.

We ask that you consider this bill favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 44. I am happy to answer questions.