

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2011-12		FY 2012-13	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	See Below			
CASH FUNDS	See Below	437,500	See Below	437,500
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS		437,500		437,500

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

This bill would provide grants for court appointed special advocate programs. The bill creates the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund. A court fee of one dollar and twenty-five cents is deposited into this Fund and is to be used for grants to court appointed special advocate programs as specified in the bill. The Supreme Court can use up to twenty-five thousand dollars to administer the grant program. Each grantee shall provide an annual report as specified in the bill.

The Supreme Court states that the additional court fee of \$1.25 is estimated to raise \$437,500 each fiscal year and that expenditures would be approximately the same amount. The Supreme Court further notes that implementing this bill would probably cost more than the \$25,000 the Court is allowed to use from this additional court fee to administer the grant program. The Court estimates a one-time cost of up to another \$25,000 could be required.

The Supreme Court’s fiscal note response detailing the impact of this bill follows:

LB 79 creates a fee of \$1.25 for each case filed. Revenue from this fee is to be deposited in a Court Appointed Special Advocate Cash Fund to be administered by the State Court Administrator. In turn, the Supreme Court is to award grants from the fund to court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs.

For the FY11-13 biennium the Supreme Court is using \$350,000 as the amount of revenue that could be raised from an additional \$1.00 on all court filings. This amount is based on recent caseload and recognition that not all fees can be collected.

Based on that amount, the fee created in LB 79 would increase Cash Fund revenue by \$437,500 each fiscal year. It is assumed that expenditures from the fund will be approximately the same as the revenue. Under LB 79 guidelines, up to \$25,000 can be expended on administering the fund with the remainder being distributed as grants. It is estimated that additional personnel will be needed to administer this program on a part-time basis and that initial implementation will require more than \$25,000 in order to establish grant application and distribution procedures. General funds would be used for these additional expenses and would probably total less than an additional \$25,000.