

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 56th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 661
Version:	ENGR
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Kannady
Date:	4/17/2017
Impact:	District Courts: revenue loss of \$1,472,139 annually. Further negative impact on: Court Clerks, CASA, Council on Judicial Complaints, and Sheriffs (Courthouse Security)

Research Analysis

Engrossed SB661 increases the damage limit for small claims suits from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and give the court discretion to award attorney fees up to 25 percent of the judgment awarded.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

Fiscal Analysis

The ENGR version of SB 661, which increases the limit for small claims actions from \$7,500 to \$10,000, upon review by the Administrative Office of the Courts, is estimated to have a revenue loss of \$1,472,139 annually for the District Courts. According to the Admin Office:

Fiscal Analysis

There are approximately 38,812 civil cases filed annually for \$10,000 or less. Total fees and costs for these civil cases are \$219.14 per case for a total of \$8,505,262 annually. Total fees and costs for small claims cases are \$163.00 per case. If all of the civil cases for \$10,000 or less were filed as small claims, it would reduce the annual revenue collected to \$6,326,356, for an annual revenue loss of \$2,178,906. The following entities would be subject to the revenue loss:

District Courts	\$ 1,472,139
Court Clerks	\$ 64,428
CASA	\$ 194,060
Council on Judicial Complaints	\$ 60,159
Sheriffs (Courthouse Security)	\$ 388,120
Total	\$ 2,178,906

Prepared By: Kristina King

Other Considerations

None.