



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1337

PRINTERS NO. 1815

PRIME SPONSOR: Toohil

### REVENUE INCREASE/(DECREASE)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
Access to Justice Account	\$0	\$2,478,000

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1337 amends the Judicial Code concerning a surcharge on court costs and filing fees. It would take effect in 30 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation changes the composition of surcharges levied pursuant to Section 3733.1 of the Judicial Code as it relates to the Access to Justice (ATJ) Account and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN). Under current law this section imposes a surcharge on court costs and filing fees totaling \$13.50. This consists of a permanent surcharge of \$2.25 and a temporary surcharge, expiring on December 31, 2014, of \$11.25. From this temporary surcharge, \$1.00 is sent to the ATJ Account to fund the PLAN. House Bill 1337 increases the total surcharge under this section to \$14.50. The current permanent surcharge of \$2.25 remains and an additional permanent surcharge of \$2.00 is sent to the ATJ Account to fund the PLAN. The temporary surcharge is reduced to \$10.25 and the expiration date remains unchanged.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to data and estimates provided by the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, the fee increase in House Bill 1337 will provide an additional \$2,478,000 for the ATJ Account and the PLAN beginning in fiscal year 2013-14. This would increase the total estimated revenue for the PLAN in 2013-14 and future year from \$10,351,000 to \$12,829,000. It should be noted this estimate assumes collection of the additional fee for a full fiscal year. To the extent collection of this additional fee begins after July 1, 2013, the estimate would be reduced proportionately in that fiscal year.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 28, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*