



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM:  Lynisse Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 25 May 2016

SUBJECT: Court Fee Study—Information from Past Surveys of Court Clerks

Staff have now begun the study of court fees added to the Commission's work program at the request of Representative Jon Lundberg, Chairman of the House Civil Justice Committee. In his letter of April 13, 2015, Chairman Lundberg wrote that several committee members are concerned about the recurring practice of fee increases and the possible negative effects of such legislation and requested assistance in gathering information to help the committee understand the issue better. The letter asked the Commission to study court fees, including any changes in fees that have occurred over the past ten years. The study will include information about the types of fees, earmarks on those fees, and whether the revenues are being used as legislatively intended, as well as information about efforts to collect unpaid fees.

At this meeting, the following staff from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and the Administrative Office of the Courts will provide information about their recent surveys of court clerks about court fees and answer your questions:

- Roger Hutto, general counsel, Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Linda Russell, special policy assistant, Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Amanda Hughes, application support manager and court clerk liaison, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Ann Lynn Walker, information systems director, Administrative Office of the Courts

Our staff developed and sent a survey to municipal and county court clerks (copy attached) on April 29, 2016, to supplement the information gathered in these earlier surveys.