

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the electronic filing system established by rule or order of the Texas Supreme Court; authorizing fees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 72.031 to read as follows:

Sec. 72.031. ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Appellate court" means the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals, or a court of appeals.

(2) "Electronic filing system" means the filing system established by supreme court rule or order for the electronic filing of documents in courts of this state.

(3) "Electronic filing transaction" means the simultaneous electronic filing of one or more documents related to a proceeding before a court in this state.

(4) "Local government" means a county or municipality.

(b) The office as authorized by supreme court rule or order may implement an electronic filing system for use in the courts of this state.

(c) A local government or appellate court that uses the electronic filing system may charge a fee of \$2 for each electronic filing transaction if:

(1) the fee is necessary to recover the actual system

1 operating costs directly and reasonably incurred by the local
2 government or appellate court to:

3 (A) accept electronic payment methods; or

4 (B) interface with other technology information
5 systems;

6 (2) the fee does not include an amount to recover local
7 government or appellate court employee costs;

8 (3) the local government or appellate court approves
9 the fee using the local government or appellate court's standard
10 approval process for fee increases; and

11 (4) the chief financial officer of the local
12 government or appellate court annually certifies to the office on a
13 form prescribed by the office that the amount of the fee is
14 necessary to recover the actual system operating costs incurred by
15 the local government or appellate court.

16 (d) A local government or appellate court that uses the
17 electronic filing system may accept electronic payment methods,
18 including payments made with credit and debit cards.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.