

Court Fee Increases/Statewide Furlough Days Included in State Budget Package



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The California Legislature has concluded a response to the budget crisis which has led to the signing of a budget package designed to reduce the \$26 billion shortfall. The bill that directly effects the courts is SBx4 13, which authorizes the Judicial Counsel to close all courts one uniform day per month, as well as an increase in filing fees. The increases are in filing fees pertaining to writs, abstracts and in certain post-judgment fees contained in the Government Code. See specifics below.

Effective immediately, all first paper filing fees except small claims will be increased by \$5. Thus, the first paper fee for unlimited civil cases prescribed in Government Code Sections 70611 and 70612 is increased from \$350 to \$355. The first paper fees for limited civil actions prescribed in Government Code Sections 70613 and 70614 increases from \$325 to \$330. Various other sections increase the filing fee by the same amount in probate, family law, and other proceedings. Additionally, SBx4 13 increases fees for services performed under Government Code Section 70626. The fee increases from \$15 to \$25 for services enumerated in Subdivision (a) of this section, including, but not limited to, the following:

- issuing writs of attachment, execution, possession, mandate, and others;
- issuing abstracts of judgment or certificates of satisfaction of judgment;
- acknowledgements of deeds and other instruments

The fee for services enumerated in Subdivision (b) of Section 70626 will increase from \$20 to \$30, including, but not limited to, the following:

- issuing orders of sale;
- filing confessions of judgment or applications for renewal of judgment;
- issuing a commission to take a deposition in another state

Because SBx4 13 contained an urgency clause, the bill becomes effective immediately upon the Governor's signature. There is no delayed operative date in the bill applicable to the fee increases. Although a small amount of time may be necessary for courts to update their systems with the increased fees, the increases are now part of the law and all should be prepared to tender the higher amounts. As for the furlough days, we will inform all when this information is released.

Thank you

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