

February 25, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2057

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Supreme Court)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 6 of section 12.1-32-08 and sections
2 ~~27-01-10~~, 27-03-05, 27-05.2-03, and 29-26-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
3 court fees.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 12.1-32-08 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 6. When the restitution ordered by the court under subsection 1 is the result of a finding
8 that the defendant issued a check or draft without sufficient funds or without an
9 account, the court shall impose as costs the greater of the sum of ~~ten~~twenty dollars or
10 an amount equal to twenty-five percent of the amount of restitution ordered. The costs
11 imposed under this subsection, however, may not exceed one thousand dollars. The
12 state-employed clerks of district court shall remit the funds collected as costs under
13 this subsection to the state treasurer for deposit in the restitution collection assistance
14 fund. The funds deposited into the restitution collection assistance fund are
15 appropriated to the judicial branch on a continuing basis for the purpose of defraying
16 expenses incident to the collection of restitution, including operating expenses and the
17 compensation of additional necessary personnel. The state's attorneys and
18 county-employed clerks of district court shall remit the funds collected as costs under
19 this subsection to the county treasurer to be deposited in the county general fund.

1 ~~SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 27-01-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 ~~27-01-10. Fee assessments for funding crime victim and witness programs.~~

4 ~~1. The governing body of a county shall, by resolution, authorize the district judges~~
5 ~~serving that county to assess a fee under subsection 3 of not more than twenty-five~~fifty
6 ~~dollars as part of a sentence imposed on a defendant who pleads guilty to or is~~
7 ~~convicted of a criminal offense or of violating a municipal ordinance for which the~~
8 ~~maximum penalty that may be imposed by law for the offense or violation includes~~
9 ~~imprisonment.~~

10 ~~2. The governing body of a city shall, by ordinance, authorize a municipal judge to~~
11 ~~assess a fee under subsection 3 of not more than twenty-five~~fifty
12 ~~dollars as part of a~~
13 ~~sentence imposed on a defendant who pleads guilty to or is convicted of violating a~~
14 ~~municipal ordinance for which the maximum penalty that may be imposed under the~~
15 ~~ordinance for the violation includes imprisonment.~~

16 ~~3. The governing body of the county or city shall determine the amount of the fee to be~~
17 ~~assessed in all cases or it may authorize the district or municipal judge to determine~~
18 ~~the amount of the fee to be assessed in each case. The fee assessed under this~~
19 ~~section is in addition to any fine, penalty, costs, or administrative fee prescribed by~~
20 ~~law. The district or municipal judge shall assess the fee when sentence is imposed or~~
21 ~~when sentence is suspended or imposition of sentence is deferred, unless the~~
22 ~~defendant is indigent and unable to pay the fee. All fees paid to a district or municipal~~
23 ~~court under this section must be deposited monthly in the county or city treasury for~~
24 ~~allocation by the governing body of the county or city to one or more of the following~~
25 ~~programs as determined by the governing body or by agreement of the attorney-~~
26 ~~general, the North Dakota league of cities, and the North Dakota association of~~
27 ~~counties:~~

28 ~~a. A private, nonprofit domestic violence or sexual assault program.~~

29 ~~b. A victim and witness advocacy program of which the primary function is to~~
30 ~~provide direct services to victims of and witnesses to crime.~~

31 ~~c. The statewide automated victim information and notification system, as~~
~~provided for under chapter 12.1-34.~~

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-03-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **27-03-05. Fees to be charged and collected by clerk of supreme court.**

4 The clerk of the supreme court shall charge and collect in advance a fee of ~~one hundred~~
5 ~~twenty-five~~two hundred fifty dollars upon the filing in the supreme court of the record in any
6 cause upon appeal or upon the filing in the court of a petition in any cause seeking the exercise
7 of the original court's jurisdiction. In addition to the fee required by this section, the clerk of the
8 supreme court shall charge and collect any electronic filing processing fee established by court
9 rule for any matter filed in an electronic format.

10 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-05.2-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **27-05.2-03. Fees to be charged by the clerk of the district court.**

13 1. A clerk of the district court shall charge and collect the following fees in civil cases:

14 a. For filing a case for decision that is not ~~a small-claims action~~under subdivision b
15 or e, eightyone hundred sixty dollars.

16 (1) ~~Fifteen~~Thirty dollars of this fee must be paid by the clerk of court to the state
17 treasurer for deposit in the civil legal services fund. Any fees collected under
18 this paragraph which exceed ~~seven hundred fifty thousand~~nine hundred
19 thousand dollars in any biennium must be paid by the clerk of court to the
20 state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund.

21 (2) ~~For the filing of a petition for dissolution of marriage, annulment, or~~
22 ~~separation from bed and board, fifty dollars of this fee must be paid by the~~
23 ~~clerk of court to the state treasurer for deposit in the displaced homemaker~~
24 ~~account created by section 14-06.1-14 and fifteen dollars of this fee must be~~
25 ~~paid by the clerk of court to the state treasurer for deposit in the state~~
26 ~~general fund.~~

27 (3) ~~For all other filings, sixty-five~~One hundred thirty dollars of this fee must be
28 paid by the clerk of court to the state treasurer for deposit in the state
29 general fund.

30 b. For filing a petition for dissolution of marriage, annulment, or separation, one
31 hundred sixty dollars.

- 1 (1) Thirty dollars of this fee must be paid by the clerk of court to the state
2 treasurer for deposit in the civil legal services fund. Any fees collected under
3 this paragraph which exceed nine hundred thousand dollars in any biennium
4 must be paid by the clerk of court to the state treasurer for deposit in the
5 state general fund.
- 6 (2) One hundred dollars of this fee must be paid by the clerk of court to the
7 state treasurer for deposit in the displaced homemaker account under
8 section 14-06.1-14.
- 9 (3) Thirty dollars of this fee must be paid by the clerk of court to the state
10 treasurer for deposit in the state general fund.
- 11 ~~c.~~ For filing an answer to a case that is not a small claims action other than under
12 subdivision d or e, fiftyone hundred dollars. The clerk shall deposit this fee with
13 the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund in the state treasury.
- 14 ~~d.~~ For filing a motion to modify an order for spousal support, property division, child
15 support, parental rights and responsibilities, residential responsibility, parenting
16 time, one hundred sixty dollars. For filing an answer to a motion to modify an
17 order for spousal support, property division, child support, parental rights and
18 responsibilities, residential responsibility, or parenting time, one hundred dollars.
19 The clerk shall deposit this fee with the state treasurer for deposit in the general
20 fund of the state treasury.
- 21 ~~e.e.~~ For filing a small claims action in district court, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 22 ~~d.f.~~ For filing any matter authorized to be filed in the office of the clerk of court other
23 than under subdivision a, b, or c, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 24 ~~e.g.~~ For preparing, certifying, issuing, or transmitting any document, ~~ten~~twenty dollars,
25 or a lesser fee as may be set by the state court administrator.
- 26 ~~f.~~ For filing a motion or an answer to a motion to modify an order for alimony,
27 property division, child support, or child custody, thirty dollars. The clerk shall
28 deposit this fee with the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund of the state
29 treasury.

- 1 2. Section 27-01-07 applies to fees charged under this section. The clerk of court may
2 not charge or collect any fee, prescribed by this or any other section, from the state or
3 an agency thereof or from a political subdivision or agency thereof.

4 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-26-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **29-26-22. Judgment for fines - Court administration fee - Community service**
7 **supervision fee - Special funds - Docketing and enforcement. (Retroactive application -**
8 **[See note](#))**

- 9 1. In all criminal cases except infractions, upon a plea or finding of guilt, the court shall
10 impose a court administration fee in lieu of the assessment of court costs. The court
11 administration fee must include a fee of ~~one hundred twenty-five~~~~two hundred fifty~~
12 dollars for a class B misdemeanor, ~~two hundred~~~~four hundred~~ dollars for a class A
13 misdemeanor, ~~four hundred~~~~eight hundred~~ dollars for a class C felony, ~~six hundred~~
14 ~~fifty~~~~one thousand three hundred~~ dollars for a class B felony, and ~~nine hundred~~~~one~~
15 ~~thousand eight hundred~~ dollars for a class A or AA felony.
- 16 2. In addition, in all criminal cases except infractions, ~~the court administration fee must~~
17 ~~include~~the court shall impose an indigent defense and court facilities fee of ~~one~~
18 ~~hundred~~~~two hundred~~ dollars. Of the additional ~~one hundred~~~~two hundred~~ dollar court
19 administration fee, the first seven hundred fifty thousand dollars collected per
20 biennium must be deposited in the indigent defense administration fund, which must
21 be used for indigent defense services in this state, and the next four hundred sixty
22 thousand dollars collected per biennium must be deposited in the court facilities
23 improvement and maintenance fund. After the minimum thresholds have been
24 collected, one-half of the additional court administration fee must be deposited in each
25 fund.
- 26 3. In addition to any ~~court administration~~ fees that may be imposed under subsections 1
27 and 2, the court shall impose upon each defendant who receives a sentence that
28 includes community service a community service supervision fee of ~~twenty-five~~~~fifty~~
29 dollars. The community service supervision fee must be deposited in the community
30 service supervision fund. The fees deposited in this fund must be used to provide
31 community service supervision grants subject to legislative appropriations.

- 1 4. A court may waive the court administration fee, indigent defense and court facilities
2 fee, or community service supervision fee upon a showing of indigency as provided in
3 section 25-03.1-13. District court administration fees, exclusive of amounts deposited
4 in the indigent defense administration fund and the court facilities and improvement
5 fund, and forfeitures must be deposited in the state general fund. A judgment that the
6 defendant pay a fine or fees, or both, may be docketed and if docketed constitutes a
7 lien upon the real estate of the defendant in like manner as a judgment for money
8 rendered in a civil action. The court may allow the defendant to pay any assessed
9 administration fee or community service supervision fee in installments. When a
10 defendant is assessed administration fees or a community service supervision fee, the
11 court may not impose at the same time an alternative sentence to be served if the fees
12 are not paid.
- 13 5. Upon successful completion of an approved adult drug court program, a court may
14 waive all unpaid fines, fees, and costs imposed in the criminal judgment sentencing
15 the defendant to the drug court program, except for restitution. For purposes of this
16 subsection, "approved drug court program" means a district court-supervised
17 treatment program approved by the supreme court.