
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1524 (Committee on Judiciary) - Courts: fees

Version: June 19, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 29, 2025

Policy Vote: JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: Prohibits a court from charging a fee for services not specifically authorized by rule or statute that exceeds the cost to the court of providing that service or product.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025

Fiscal Impact: The Judicial Council estimates a minor fiscal impact to court budgets for AB 1524. There is an anticipated minor revenue impact associated with the allowance for free personal photographing or copying of court records. Staff time will still be needed to assist those using their own equipment under the bill's provisions, which would normally be captured in the cost recovery model for those requesting copies of those records. However, any notable lost revenue may be accounted for in the annual budget negotiations for Trial Court backfill related to legislative efforts to reduce court user fees. The Judicial Council estimates a minor and absorbable impact to prepare the required legislative report. Overall, the bill does not create fiscal concerns for the judicial branch.

Author Amendments: Provide that, a member of the public requesting to view court records on the premises of the court, shall be allowed to use their equipment as specified, unless the use of equipment would require the assistance of court staff to operate or a wired electrical or internet connection, or that would obstruct the ability of other court users to access case files, terminals, or other court resources because of the size of the equipment.

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