

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2781 (Committee on Judiciary) – As Amended April 8, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill updates the filing fee statutes to reflect recent updates to jurisdictional limits in small claim and limited civil matters.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No known state costs. Potential additional revenue to the courts associated with a clarified fee schedule.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** California's trial courts are divided into three tiers of cases depending on the amount-in-controversy in a given case. The filing fees associated with each tier differ; the higher the tier, the greater the fee, reflecting the additional court costs associated with adjudicating more complex cases. In 2023, the Legislature updated the jurisdictional limits associated with the bottom two tiers. SB 71 (Umberg) Chapter 861, Statutes of 2023, expanded the small claims court's jurisdiction to \$6,250 or \$12,500 for actions filed by a natural person and raised the amount for limited civil cases from \$25,000 to \$35,000. But there remain some outdated references to the previous jurisdictional limits throughout several codes, including filing fee statutes. The Superior Court of Los Angeles, this bill's sponsor, reports that the outdated references have resulted in courts receiving inadequate filing fees. To address this issue, this bill corrects this unintentional oversight by updating various filing fee statutes to reflect the jurisdictional amounts originally intended in SB 71.
- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 1827 (Chen) increases and standardizes the jurisdictional limit for small claims court to \$15,000 for all causes of action and increases the number of small claims actions exceeding \$2,500 that a person may file per calendar year from two to three. That bill is pending on this committee's suspense file.

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