

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.213 An Act Relating to Establishing Statewide Access to Drug and DUI Treatment Courts

Costs¹:

Amount	Reason	Annual or One-time
\$63,000	Salary and Benefits – Judicial Master	Annual
\$75,000	Salary – Two Courtroom Administrators	Annual
\$78,000	Salary and Benefits – Treatment Coordinator	Annual
\$23,000	Travel and Training	Annual
\$20,000	Evaluation – For report to House and Senate Judiciary	One-time (FY18)
\$47,000	Defense Attorneys' services – If pilot operated on post-sentence rather than post-plea basis	Annual
\$286,000	Total Annual (includes Defense Attorneys)	
\$20,000	Total One-time	

Revenues:

An Adult Treatment Court Special Fund would be created in Sec. 2 of the bill (draft 4.1) to be composed of private gifts, grants, donations, etc.; net revenue from a surcharge (see below); and other funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

A surcharge of \$20 would be added to the costs for criminal history record checks and criminal conviction record checks. Currently a fee of \$30 per check is charged for these checks. The current charge is deposited in the Criminal History Record Check Fund for use by the Department of Public Safety in administering the program, with the remainder at the end of each fiscal year transferred to the General Fund.

Per Department of Public Safety records going back three fiscal years (FY14-FY16), the Department had collected revenues from the existing \$30 fee of \$821,000 in FY 2014, \$1.01 million in FY 2015 and \$1.3 million in FY 2016. The numbers of requests were 30,000, 38,000 and 46,000 each year respectively. Requests on which the fee is paid could come from one-time sources or monthly subscribers. Adding a \$20 surcharge would probably drop the number of requests from one-time sources and to some extent from subscribers. This analysis assumes a cumulative request range of 30,000 to 35,000 per year with the new surcharge. **This would result in \$600,000 to \$700,000 in revenue annually to the Adult Treatment Court Fund.**²

¹ The cost estimate is taken from a memo dated March 16, 2017 from Patricia Gabel to the House Judiciary Committee Chairwoman, Maxine Grad.

² There would be some revenue loss to the Criminal History Record Check Fund and to the General Fund due to the addition of the surcharge to the cost of requesting criminal history and conviction checks.