

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

FISCAL NOTE

Date: March 27, 2017

Prepared by: Daniel Dickerson

H.515 An Act Relating to Executive Branch and Judiciary Fees

Sec. 1-3 Judiciary Fees

These sections establish or clarify fees impacting the Judiciary branch. Section 1 would set a fee for requests to “modify” child custody determinations issued by courts in other States. This section would also add language to statute establishing that a fee will be charged for motions to reopen existing cases in the Probate division of the Superior Court. Section 2 adds language clarifying when a fee will be charged for annual accounts on decedents’ estates, establishes a fee structure for motions to reopen estates when an asset is discovered, and establishes fees for small estate affidavit procedures and for requests for findings regarding motor vehicle titles. Section 3 would establish a fee for exemplified certificates.

The Judiciary has testified that in many of these cases, courts are already charging some sort of fee for the services named above. The intent is simply to codify one standard fee for the services rendered. **The Judiciary estimates that any revenue changes will be very small or negligible because the services apply to a very small cohort.**

Sec. 4 Worker’s Compensation Administration

The Legislature is required by statute to set the Worker’s Compensation Fund contribution rate for employers and for self-insured individuals. If the rates are not set in a given year then they automatically revert to rates that are in statute under 21 VSA §711(a). Typically, the rates are set in session law notwithstanding the statutory rates. The existing rate for employers, set yearly in session law since 2013, is 1.45%. This bill proposes to alter the statutory rate of contribution for employers from 1.75% to 1.4%. The contribution rate for self-insured individuals will remain at 1.0%. **The rate change will reduce revenues to the Worker’s Compensation Administration Fund by approximately \$506,000 in FY18.**