

| CLEARANCES                      | Initial | Date    | Date Received in Council Office:   | Agenda date | Assigned to:         |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Originator: <b>COUNTY CLERK</b> |         | 7/20/93 | <b>RECEIVED</b><br><br><b>AUG 10 1993</b><br><br><b>WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL</b> | 7/27/93     | Council introduction |
| Division Head:                  |         |         |  | 8/10/93     | Council              |
| Dept. Head:                     |         |         |  |             |                      |
| Prosecutor:                     |         |         |  |             |                      |
| Purchasing/Budget:              |         |         |  |             |                      |
| Executive:                      |         |         |  |             |                      |

**SUBJECT:**

An ordinance imposing a 1993 Superior Court filing fee surcharge and a marriage license fee surcharge to fund family law courthouse facilitator services.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Washington Laws, 1993: Chapter 435, §2 (new section to RCW 26.12, not yet codified);  
 RCW 26.12.220, Funding family court or family court services--Increase in marriage license fee authorized . . .

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

*Please complete sections of box as appropriate & explain the item below.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Related County contract #: 9212034        | Should Clerk schedule a hearing? NO / / YES / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / Requested date:                        |
| Amount budgeted for this item/project: \$ | Is it (or will it be) within budget? YES / <input type="checkbox"/> / NO / <input type="checkbox"/> (Please explain below) |
| Budget line item number(s):               | This is a revenue enhancement, not an expenditure (the revenue would not be enough, alone, to fund the intended service).  |

Superior Court's Courthouse Facilitator position is a one-year, substantially grant-funded position designed to assist pro se litigants in family law matters. The facilitator has made a significant contribution to the efficiency of family law judicial administration in the Superior Court, expediting matters to be heard by the court, has single-handedly improved the perception of the quality of and access to justice by pro se family law litigants and by being available as a family law process expert has significantly lessened the public service burden on the County Clerk's single customer service deputy. This request includes two parts of a three-part facilitator position continuation funding plan. The requested ordinance is 1), to assess a \$10 filing fee surcharge on Title 26 actions filed in Superior Court, authorized by the 1993 legislature and, 2) to authorize the maximum marriage license fee surcharge permitted by statute (currently \$8.00), both in order to continue the funding for the courthouse facilitator program. The anticipated annual revenue from the filing fee surcharge is approximately \$8,000 and that from the marriage license fee surcharge, assessed at \$8.00, is approximately \$8,800.

**This ordinance implements the filing fees for the remainder of 1993, the unified fee schedule ordinance will establish the fees for 1994 and thereafter.**

**ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Pass the ordinance assessing the filing fee and marriage license fee surcharges.

**COMMITTEE ACTION TAKEN:**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:**

**SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE**

7/27/93: Council introduction  
 8/10/93: Council adopted the ordinance. 6-1 with Imhof opposed.

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):** Ord 93-054

ORDINANCE NO. 93-054

**ASSESSMENT OF SUPERIOR COURT  
FILING FEE SURCHARGE  
AND  
ASSESSMENT OF MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE SURCHARGE  
TO  
FUND COURTHOUSE FACILITATOR PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the 1993 Legislature of the State of Washington has authorized county legislative authorities to assess certain Superior Court filing fee surcharges in order to fund courthouse facilitator programs and RCW 26.12.220 authorizes county legislative authorities to assess a marriage license fee surcharge to fund family court services, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Superior Court's present grant-funded Courthouse Facilitator program has significantly contributed to the quality of and perception of the quality of justice in family court matters in Whatcom County and has significantly reduced the workload of certain of the County Clerk's public service duties,

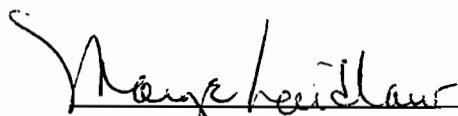
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Clerk of the Superior Court/County Clerk is authorized and directed to assess and collect the maximum filing fee surcharge authorized by 1993, Laws of Washington, Chapter 435, Section 2, and to deposit said filing fee surcharges collected as directed by the aforesaid statute, and,

**NOW BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Whatcom County Auditor is authorized and directed to assess and collect the maximum marriage license fee surcharge authorized from time to time by RCW 26.12.220 and to deposit said filing fee surcharges as directed by the aforesaid statute, and

**NOW BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that if a Unified Fee Schedule is adopted and effective prior to January 1, 1994, then the authorization herein granted shall expire at the end of December 31, 1993, and thereafter the authorization and fees provided for herein shall be addressed in the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

**PASSED** this 10th day of August, 1993.

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON**

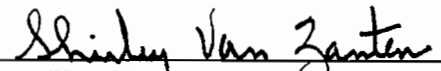
  
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Chairperson

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ATTEST:

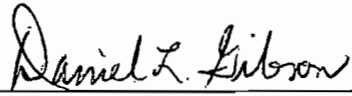
APPROVED     VETOED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Van Zanten, County Executive

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Date: 8-11-93

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney