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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 567  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 567's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Stewart and Brown

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

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### Highlights

- The bill's requirement for clerks of courts of common pleas to make the court's general docket and certain document images available online will result in increased costs for those that need to purchase, upgrade, or maintain an online docket system. Currently, there are 47 counties that do not have images published online and three that do not offer any online publication, dockets or otherwise. Costs will vary based on county population and caseload, the court's current case management system capability, and case management vendor.
- Clerks of courts of common pleas may incur some one-time administrative costs related to preparing documents for online publication, such as redacting information.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill requires that the clerks of courts of common pleas make available online on the clerk's website the "general docket" of the court for remote access and printing, including all individual documents in each case file pertaining to civil cases filed on or after the effective date of the bill. The bill states that the clerk of court is not required to make available online the general docket of the domestic relations division, the juvenile court, or the probate court. If the court does not have a domestic relations division, the general docket in domestic relation cases is not required to be made available online. The bill does not require case files and/or documents ordered to be removed from public access by the court or those prohibited by law to be available online, nor does it require case information from before the effective date of the bill to be made available online. The required information must be made available online not later than 18 months after the bill's effective date.

Most of Ohio's 88 counties have a case management and docketing system that is capable of some type of online access. According to the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association, as of August 2021, 38 counties have both the docket entries and case document images available for public access online. Presumably, these counties will be able to comply with the bill's requirement at little to no cost. Another 47 counties post docket entries online, but do not currently post case document images online. There are currently three counties that do not offer access to their docket or case document images online. Please see the attached "**Appendix**" for a list of counties that will either need to implement image scanning or upgrade their current case management system in order to comply with the bill's requirements.

## Cost estimates to upgrade case management systems

In Ohio, courts are able to choose their own case management system vendor. Several vendors offer these services, two of which are Equivant/CourtView (services 60 counties) and Henchen & Associates (services 14 counties). According to a representative of Equivant/CourtView, 75% of the counties using their service currently have the ability to display case document images and the docket entries online using their existing purchased software. For counties that are not currently posting document images, it is generally due to reasons such as the need to redact certain information.

For counties that need to upgrade their current case management systems, there would likely be a one-time programming cost and potential ongoing maintenance and storage costs. Equivant/CourtView provided the following information as an example of the potential costs for those courts that utilize their system. These figures are only estimates and may not be reflective of what other vendors may charge. Counties that currently have no online case management system will incur additional costs that are indeterminate, but would likely be in the tens of thousands of dollars, or more. Total costs for each impacted clerk of court will differ based on county population and caseload, the court's current case management system, and case management vendor.

Sample Estimates to Implement Online Imaging (Users of Equivant/CourtView)	
<b>One-Time Costs</b>	
CMS Image Adaptor*	\$1,500
iDMS Image Adaptor** (fee based on population)	\$6,500
Services	\$3,900
<b>Recurring Annual Costs</b>	
Maintenance (based on a 22% license fee)	\$1,760

\*CMS – Case Management System

\*\*iDMS – Integrated Database Management System

## Appendix

Counties Impacted by H.B. 567 (CMS Upgrades Needed)		
Adams	Guernsey	Noble*
Allen	Harrison	Pickaway
Ashtabula	Henry	Pike
Auglaize	Highland	Preble
Belmont	Hocking	Putnam*
Brown	Holmes	Richland
Carroll	Knox	Ross
Champaign	Lake	Sandusky
Clark	Lawrence	Scioto
Clermont	Licking	Seneca
Clinton	Logan	Stark
Columbiana	Lorain	Tuscarawas
Crawford	Madison	Vinton
Defiance	Monroe	Warren
Fulton	Morgan*	Williams
Gallia	Morrow	Wyandot
Greene	Muskingum	

\*Shaded cells represent counties that do not publish online case imaging as well as any docket entries. Costs for these counties may be higher than those that only require imaging upgrades.