



STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

SB-56 expands access to justice for all Coloradans; moves some cases to less-expensive, more simplified process in county courts

SB18-056 increases the cap on judgments that can be awarded in civil cases in county courts to \$35,000. The bill also adjusts filing fees for civil cases in both county courts and district courts to ensure the changes are revenue neutral. Changes provided by the bill will:

- Make the court system more affordable and easier to navigate for ordinary citizens.
- Ensure filing fees continue to provide adequate funding for services provided by courts.

Background

The current jurisdiction limit of \$15,000 for civil cases in county courts was set in 2001. Civil cases involve disputes between two private citizens, such as landlords and tenant disputes, and debt collections.

All types of civil cases can be heard in either county courts or district courts. County courts offer a more simplified, and less-costly, process that is easier for litigants to navigate, especially if they don't have attorneys. Raising the jurisdiction limit to \$35,000 means more citizens will be able to have their cases heard in county courts, which would mean lower filing fees, fewer motions, and quicker resolution.

Fee changes

Filing fees pay for much of the operation of state courts. As thousands of civil cases move from district courts to county courts, the filing fees need to be adjusted to ensure the bill is revenue neutral and the operations of courts are not impacted. The bill would increase filing fees for civil cases in county courts from \$97 to \$107 per case. For district courts, the fee would increase from \$224 to \$230.

