May 9, 2007

H 2022. EXPAND ACCESS TO THE COURTS. Filed 5/9/07. *TO INCREASE COURT FEES, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COURT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND TO AMEND THE ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE ACT*.

Amends GS 7A-304 (costs in criminal actions) to increase the fees for support of the General Court of Justice in subsection (a)(4) as follows: increases the costs for district court cases from $85.50 to $93 and increases the costs in superior court cases from $92.50 to $100. Requires the State Treasurer to credit $5 to the Court Information Technology Fund, $3 to the NC State Bar for services described in GS 7A-474.4 and 95 cents to the Bar for services described in GS 7A-474.19. Amends GS 7A-305 (costs in civil actions) to increase the fees for support of the General Court of Justice in subsection (a)(2) as follows: increases the costs for superior court cases from $79 to $86 and increases the additional fee for superior court cases assigned to a special superior court judge as a complex business case from $200 to $210; increases the costs for district court cases from $64 to $70, except that the costs for cases assigned to a magistrate are increased from $53 to $60. Requires the State Treasurer to credit the fees as outlined above. Amends GS 7A-306 (costs in special proceedings) and GS 7A-307 (costs in administration of estates) to increase the fees to support the General Court of Justice from $40 to $47. Requires the Treasurer to credit $5 to the Court Information Technology Fund and $3 to the NC State Bar for services described in GS 7A-474.4. Amends the definitions for the Access to Civil Justice Act in GS 7A-474.2 to replace the term *geographically based field programs* with the term *established legal services programs* and to revise the included not-for-profit corporations. Amends GS 7A-474.4 (funds relating to the Access to Civil Justice Act) to make conforming changes and to modify how the NC State Bar allocates funds. Makes other conforming changes. Effective July 1, 2007, with some exceptions for the amendments to GS 7A-304.

Intro. by Weiss, Bordsen, Love. GS 7A