SB 2447: (Sims): 2026 Fees & Fines Overview & Recommendations

SB 2447 would enact key recommendations of the 2023 Illinois Supreme Court Statutory Court Fee Task Force Report. That Report builds on groundbreaking 2018 legislation that streamlined how court fees and fines are imposed in Illinois. If enacted, SB 2447 would continue to make the system more fair and equitable for people of all incomes, and improve transparency and the administration of justice.

Historical Background

- The Illinois Statutory Court Fee Task Force released initial findings and recommendations in June 2016.
- In response to the 2016 Report, the Illinois General Assembly enacted comprehensive legislation in 2018 and the Illinois Supreme Court promulgated corresponding rules.
- The 2018 legislation included the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act ("CTAA," 705 ILCS 135/) addressing court fees and costs ("assessments") in criminal and traffic proceedings, and Section 27.1b of the Clerk of Courts Act ("Section 27.1b," 705 ILCS 105/27.1b) governing assessments in civil litigation.
- This legislation streamlined and simplified the imposition of assessments, made the imposition of assessments more uniform across the state, and together with Supreme Court Rule amendments expanded the availability of assessment waivers for low-income parties.

The 2023 Recommendations

- The General Assembly anticipated, as with any massive statutory overhaul, that the CTAA would produce some implementation issues, inconsistent interpretations, and unintended consequences.
- Consequently, the legislation included a sunset date to ensure that any such issues would be identified and addressed.
- In response, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an order in January 2021, creating a new Task Force to propose measures to remedy any problems that had surfaced regarding the 2018 legislation, and to develop proposals to further improve the way assessments are imposed in Illinois courts.
- This bill is the product of the recommendations of the reconvened Statutory Court Fee Task Force Report, outlining several changes that improve the classification, imposition, and collection of court fees to further reduce barriers for Illinoisans of all incomes and improve transparency and the administration of justice.

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2026 Fees & Fines Overview & Recommendations

SB 2447 (Sims)

Fee or Fine and Statutory Reference	Recommendation & Rationale
Guardianship & Advocacy Fee 30 ILCS 105/6z-22	This fee was established to defray the costs of maintaining public guardianship and advocacy programs, including programs in probate proceedings. The fee will now be a $5 fee charged on all civil cases, rather than just a $100 fee on probate cases. The amount is spread out across Schedules 1 and 2, and Appearance Fee Schedule 1 within the Clerks of Courts Act.
County Law Library Fee 55 ILCS 5/5-39001	This $20 fee is for county law libraries throughout the state. These facilities are freely available to attorneys, judges, court staff and members of the public, and often include self-help centers and/or other legal assistance programs. This fee is now included within Schedules 1, 2 and 3 under the Clerks of Courts Act.
Neutral Site Custody Exchange Fund 55 ILCS 82/15	This fee of not less than $1 and up to $8 provides for a safe and neutral location for the exchange of minor children in contested matters in counties throughout the state. This fee is now included within Schedules 1, 2 and 3 under the Clerks of Courts Act.
Annexation Clerk's Fee 65 ILCS 5/7-1-2	This fee was to be paid by petitioners or corporate authorities who sought to annex an owner's property. This fee has been deleted as it was determined that this fee was rarely assessed and thus there would be minimal revenue impact by deleting it.
FOID Card Violation Fine	This fine is assessed against anyone convicted of a violation of the Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

430 ILCS 66/70(e) 30 ILCS 105/6z-99 (mental health reporting fund creation)	The revisions to this section are to clarify that this is a fine rather than a fee.
Annual Fee in Guardianship Proceedings Involving Minors and Disable Adults 705 ILCS 105/27.1b	Eliminating the annual fee in minor and adult guardianship proceedings.
Collection Fees on Unpaid Assessments 105 ILCS 105/27.1b	Eliminating redundant legislation that authorized debt collection charges on unpaid assessments.
Frivolous Lawsuit Fee 705 ILCS 105/27.9(a)	This section allowed for the circuit court clerk to assess a fee against prisoners in IDOC who had filed a frivolous pleading, motion or other pleading. This fee was deleted as redundant in light of Section 22-105 of the Code of Civil Procedure
Domestic Relations Fee 705 ILCS 130/15	This fee of not less than $1 and up to $8 was initially established to provide legal aid services to individuals going through a divorce in DuPage County. This fee has been revised to remove the population restriction to be available beyond DuPage County and has now been included within Schedules 1, 2 and 3 under the Clerks of Courts Act.
Definitions in the CTAA 705 ILCS 135/1-5 705 ILCS 135/1-15 705 ILCS 135/15-70	The definitions of “Case”, “Conditional assessments’, “Court-supervised service provider”, “Court-supervised service provider costs” and “Non-court supervised service provider costs” were clarified.
Circuit Court Clerk Assessment Report for Criminal, Traffic, and Civil Cases 705 ILCS 135/1-10 705 ILCS 105/27.1c	Continuing and expands the yearly reports by circuit court clerks regarding criminal, traffic and civil cases and in accordance with the Supreme Court’s GAO on Recordkeeping in the Circuit Courts.
Dispute Resolution Fee 710 ILCS 20/3	This $2 fee was established for the establishment of a dispute resolution center. This fee is now included within Schedules 1, 2 and 3 under the Clerks of Courts Act.

HIV Test Costs 720 ILCS 5/11-1.10(e)	This fee is to cover the cost of HIV Tests performed on victims of sexual assault and paid directly to the medical professional, clinic or hospital that was ordered to perform the test. It is only assessed against the defendant if convicted. The fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Property Improvement Fee 720 ILCS 5/12-5.2(g)	This fee was originally established as costs against a defendant who had been found liable for criminal housing management or aggravated criminal housing management. This fee has been deleted as it was determined this fee was rarely assessed and there would be minimal revenue impact by deleting removing it.
Scope of Assessment Waivers 725 ILCS 5/124A-20 735 ILCS 5/5-105	Clarifying the definition of "assessments" for purposes of an application for a waiver of fees.
Assessment Waiver 725 ILCS 5/124A-20	Clarifying that no defendant is required to forgo the right to seek a waiver of assessments as a condition of any plea agreement.
Earn-Down Reduction of Assessments and Fines for Defendants Sentenced to DOC 725 ILCS 5/124A-25	Allows defendant/offender sentenced to the Department of Corrections to earn a reduction in the amount of assessments and fines (but not restitution) based on term of imprisonment.
STD Cost 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3(g) & (h)	These fees are assessed against a convicted defendant to cover the costs of testing the defendant for sexually transmitted diseases following applicable convictions. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Roadside Memorial Fine 730 ILCS 5/5-9-1.22	This fine is assessed against defendants convicted of DUI. As this is a fine, not a fee, the statute has been revised accordingly.

Community Service Fee 730 ILCS 5/5-5-10	This fee is assessed against individuals court ordered to perform community service to cover the costs of probation or court services administration. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Post Conviction Home Monitoring 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3(b)(10)(iv) & (v)	This fee is assessed against defendants to cover the costs of electronic home monitoring. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Drug/Alcohol Monitoring (during probation or conditional discharge) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3(g)	This fee is assessed against an individual sentenced to probation or conditional discharge to cover the costs of mandatory electronic drug and/or alcohol testing. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Probation Fee (probation or conditional discharge) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3(h)	This fee is assessed against an individual sentenced to probation or conditional discharge that has been transferred from the sentencing jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for probation services. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Probation Fee (probation or conditional discharge) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3(i)	This fee is assessed against an offender who has been sentenced to probation, conditional discharge, or community service and is actively supervised by the probation or court services department. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Drug/Alcohol Monitoring (supervision) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.1(g)	This fee is assessed against a defendant under court supervision to cover the costs of mandatory electronic drug and/or alcohol testing. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.

Probation Fee (supervision) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.1(i)	This fee is assessed against an offender who has been placed on supervision and is actively supervised by the probation or court services department. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Probation Fee (supervision) 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.1(u)	This fee is assessed against an offender who has been placed on supervision that has been transferred from the sentencing jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for probation services. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Drug/Alcohol Monitoring (periodic imprisonment) 730 ILCS 5/5-7-1(g) & (h)	This fee is assessed against a defendant periodic imprisonment to cover the costs of mandatory electronic drug and/or alcohol testing. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the CTAA.
Out of State Transfer 730 ILCS 5/5-9-1.13	This fee is assessed against individuals under probation, parole or mandatory supervised release and who are transferred to another state. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the Criminal & Traffic Assessments Act.
Domestic Violence Surveillance Program 730 ILCS 5/5-9-1.16(c)	This fee is assessed against someone charged with or convicted of violating an order of protection to cover the costs of equipment used in the DV surveillance program. This fee is now included in the list of conditional assessments in the Criminal & Traffic Assessments Act.
Foreclosure Fees 735 ILCS 5/15-1504.1 735 ILCS 5/15-1504.1(a-5)	This fee was established to be paid by all plaintiffs filing a foreclosure complaint to cover administrative and other costs associated with the Foreclosure Prevention Program Fund.

	These fees had previously been declared unconstitutional and thus have now been deleted.
Child Support Payment Disbursement Fee 750 ILCS 5/705(6) 750 ILCS 5/711	These fees are for the administration of child support enforcement programs. These fees have been moved to the Clerks of Courts Act to align these fees with the prior efforts at streamline and standardizing the statutory scheme.
Notice to Putative Father Fee 750 ILCS 50/12a	This fee was established to cover the administration and costs of written notice to a putative father in lieu of personal service. This fee is now deleted as it was determined this fee was rarely assessed and there would be a minimal impact on revenue by removing it.
Access to Justice Fee (705 ILCS 105/27.1b)	This fee funds the nationally recognized Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (ilaflan.org), which provides free legal assistance to thousands of veterans and military families throughout the state each year. The current $2 fee was originally projected to generate between $1.5M and $2M in revenue, but actual revenue has fallen well short of what is needed to fund the program. The increase will bring these revenues into the originally intended range and provide the necessary funding for the program.

Clerks of Court Act
705 ILCS 105/27.1(b)
	Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3 and Appearances Schedule 1 all increased by $46 for counties with a population of 3,000,000 or more, and $44 all other counties* to correspond with:
	• the incorporation of:
	  ○ Law Library Fee ($20),
	  ○ the Custody Exchange Fee (not less than $1, not more than $8),
	  ○ the Guardianship and Advocacy Fee ($5),
	  ○ the Domestic Relations Fee (not less than $1, not more than $8), and
	  ○ the Dispute Resolution Fee ($2); and
	• the increase in the Access to Justice fee (from $2 to $5).

	The intention behind including these fees within the schedule caps is to balance revenue generation while also keeping an eye toward reducing financial barriers. The amount is equal to the total amount of the individual fees listed above while also staying well below the level of inflation levels since the bill was enacted in 2018. **The Mandatory Arbitration Fee is assessed at $10 in a county with a population of 3,000,000 or more, and $8 in any other county, resulting in the discrepancy between the amount of the increase*.