

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB96

Bill Subtitle: TO CLARIFY THE FEE FOR TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK.

Basic Change :

Sen. J. Woods,

SB96 clarifies the law concerning fees charged by circuit court clerks for preparing transcripts for judicial appeals. The circuit clerk prepares the pleadings portions of these transcripts, while the court reporter prepares transcripts of testimony at hearings and trials. Ark. Code Ann. § 21-6-402 authorizes the circuit clerk to charge a fee for the clerk's portion of the transcript preparation, and Ark. Code Ann. § 16-13-506 authorizes the court reporter to charge a separate fee for the reporter's portion. This bill addresses only the clerk's fee.

Currently, the circuit clerks, under Ark. Code Ann. § 21-6-402(b)(4), charge a transcript preparation fee of \$2.50 per page for the first 1,000 pages; \$2.00 per page for pages 1,001 through 2,000; \$1.50 per page for pages 2,001 through 3,000; \$1.00 per page for pages 3,001 through 4,000; and 50 cents per page for pages over 4,000. However, the current language of § 21-6-402(b)(4) can be misinterpreted to allow flat fees of \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50, \$1.00, and 50 cents, respectively, for the page preparation. This bill inserts the words "per page" in appropriate places in the statute to clarify these charges. The bill will not change the way circuit clerk charges for transcript preparation.

Revenue Impact :

None

Taxpayer Impact :

None

Resources Required :

None

Time Required :

None

Procedural Changes :

None

Other Comments :

None

Legal Analysis :

This bill codifies current practice and will not affect the amount paid to clerks to obtain copies of transcripts for judicial appeals.