

Request for Board of Commissioners' Action

From: Probate Court **Date:** September 13, 2019
Subject: Technology Fee Resolution **Item Number:** VIII-A

From: Chase Daughtrey <Chase.Daughtrey@cookcountyga.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Lyn Parrish <parrish.lindsey@yahoo.com>; 'Jeff Lane' <jbl1787@windstream.net>; Audie Rowe <rowe64@yahoo.com>; hayman4750@yahoo.com; Debra Robinson <cookdistrict1@icloud.com>
Cc: Faye Hughes <cookgov@windstream.net>; Daniel Connell <daniel@bennettandconnell.com>
Subject: Resolution to Rep. Houston - Technology Fee

Attached is a copy of draft legislation that would allow the probate court to collect a technology fee for ten years. Rep. Houston has agreed to introduce the legislation upon the Board of Commissioners passing a resolution. I would like to respectfully request that you pass a resolution and will gladly attend a meeting at your convenience to address the legislation. Governor Kemp signed 12 of these bills into law this year. If approved by the General Assembly and the Governor, we would stand to collect approximately \$60,000 per year.

Thanks in advance!

L. Chase Daughtrey
Judge, Probate Court
Cook County, Georgia
212 North Hutchinson Ave.
Adel, Georgia 31620
229-896-3941 (O)

Motion made by _____

Second made by _____

Any discussion: _____

Votes _____ yes _____ no

Motion carried/ failed

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To authorize the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Cook County; to identify the authorized uses of such technology fee; to provide for the termination of such technology fee and dedication of residual funds to technology uses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

- (a) The clerk of the Probate Court of Cook County is hereby authorized to charge and collect a technology fee to be set by the judge of the probate court in an amount not to exceed \$5.00 for the filing of each civil action with the court and not to exceed \$5.00 as a surcharge upon each fine assessed by the court. Such technology fees shall be used exclusively to provide for technological needs of the Probate Court of Cook County. Such uses shall include only the following:
 - (1) Computer hardware and software purchases;
 - (2) Lease, maintenance, and installation of computer hardware; and
 - (3) Purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of imaging, scanning, facsimile, communications, projections, and printing equipment, and software.
- (b) Funds collected pursuant to this section shall be maintained in a segregated account by the clerk of the probate court, subject to audit by an auditor approved by the governing authority and shall be used only for the purposes authorized in this section.
- (c) The authority to assess a technology fee pursuant to the section shall terminate on July 1, 2030, and any residual funds remaining in the fund established by this section shall remain dedicated to general Cook County technology uses.

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST LOCAL LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF TECHNOLOGY FEES
BY THE PROBATE COURT OF COOK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Probate Judge of Cook County desire local legislation for the imposition of certain Technology Fees to provide funding for technology hardware, software and technical service support for the court system; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the technology needs and challenges facing the court system, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Probate Judge of Cook County believe that it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Cook County and the operations of the court system if by local Act a technology fee was collected in an amount not to exceed \$5.00 for the filing of each civil action with the court and not to exceed \$5.00 as a surcharge upon each fine assessed by the court.; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners as the governing authority of Cook County has, upon review, determined that any such technology fee imposed and collected will be paid into a special fund to be expended for such technology hardware, software and technical support services which will provide a reasonable and effective balance between the judicial need for technology support and the need to protect the public finances;

WHEREAS, Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Probate Judge of Cook County understand the authority to assess a technology fee pursuant to the section shall terminate on July 1, 2030, and any residual funds remaining in the fund established by this section shall remain dedicated to general Cook County technology uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cook County Board of Commissioners resolves that it shall, and hereby does, request the introduction of the local legislation as described above and as attached hereto and requests that the entire local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the same.

SO RESOLVED, this 16th day of September, 2019.

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lindsey Parrish, Chairman

(County Seal)

Attest:_____

Vicki S. Parrish, County Clerk