

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Ramsey County Criminal Surcharge

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Overview

Authorizes Ramsey County to collect and receive a \$1 criminal surcharge in order to fund the County's petty misdemeanor diversion program.

Section

- 1** **Surcharges on criminal and traffic offenders.** Permits the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to authorize imposition of a \$1 criminal surcharge for every conviction of a felony, gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, or petty misdemeanor offense, other than parking tickets. It is the responsibility of judges in the 2nd Judicial District (Ramsey County) to impose the \$1 surcharge and for the court administrator to collect the surcharge. The court administrator must collect the \$1 surcharge along with the current statutorily mandated \$60 criminal surcharge. This section is effective either the day after the Ramsey County Board authorizes the surcharge, or August 1, 2004, whichever is the later date. The surcharge will apply to convictions obtained on or after the effective date.
- 2** **Disbursement of surcharges by commissioner of finance.** Requires Ramsey County to use the proceeds raised from the \$1 surcharge to fund the petty misdemeanor diversion program administered by the Ramsey County Violations Bureau. Any unencumbered portion of the surcharge proceeds must be turned over to the commissioner of finance for distribution according to the existing formula for allocating surcharge proceeds. This section is effective either the day after the Ramsey County Board authorizes the surcharge, or August 1, 2004, whichever is the later date.