

1 SB21
2 114585-1
3 By Senator Means
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10
6 PFD: 09/22/2009

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would provide for additional
9 court costs in original divorce cases.

10 This bill would also create the Alabama
11 Court Appointed Special Advocates Fund, authorize
12 expenditures of money from the fund, and provide
13 for continuous appropriations from the fund to the
14 Alabama CASA Network.

15
16 A BILL
17 TO BE ENTITLED
18 AN ACT

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20 To provide for additional court costs in original
21 divorce cases; to create the Alabama Court Appointed Special
22 Advocates Fund to which additional court costs provided by
23 this act are to be deposited; to authorize expenditures from
24 the fund; and to continuously appropriate the proceeds of the
25 fund to the Alabama CASA Network.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. For purposes of this act, the following
2 terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context
3 clearly indicates otherwise:

4 (1) BOARD. The Alabama CASA Network Board.

5 (2) CASA. Court Appointed Special Advocates.

6 (3) FUND. The Alabama Court Appointed Special
7 Advocates Fund.

8 (4) NETWORK. The Alabama CASA Network.

9 (5) STATE DIRECTOR. The State Director of the
10 Alabama CASA Network.

11 Section 2. There is hereby established a special
12 fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Alabama Court
13 Appointed Special Advocates Fund. The fund shall consist of
14 all monies received pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of
15 this act and shall be used, as determined by the board,
16 exclusively for the purpose of funding and administering CASA
17 programs in the state and the network. Interest earned from
18 the investment of monies in the fund by the State Treasurer
19 shall be deposited to the fund. The fund shall be administered
20 by the state director of the Alabama CASA Network pursuant to
21 such authorization as may be given by the Alabama CASA Network
22 Board. It shall be the duty of the state director to keep
23 permanent records of all receipts and disbursements of the
24 fund.

25 Section 3. In addition to all other costs and
26 charges in original divorce cases filed, a fee in the amount
27 of five dollars (\$5) shall be assessed and collected for each

1 such case filed. The fee shall be collected by the court
2 clerk, deposited in the State Treasury no later than the tenth
3 day of each month next succeeding that in which the fee is
4 paid, and credited to the Alabama Court Appointed Special
5 Advocates Fund created by this act. All monies in the fund
6 shall be disbursed by the State Treasurer to the network on
7 the twentieth day of each month. It shall be the duty of the
8 clerk or other authority collecting those court fees to keep
9 accurate records of the amounts due the fund for the benefit
10 of the network.

11 Section 4. There is hereby appropriated annually
12 from the Alabama Court Appointed Special Advocates Fund to the
13 Alabama CASA Network all proceeds deposited in the fund
14 pursuant to this act.

15 Section 5. The board shall annually submit to the
16 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives a written report of its transactions
18 for the preceding year.

19 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the
20 first day of the third month following its passage and
21 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.