

HB478 INTRODUCED



1 HB478
2 ILE8666-1
3 By Representative Hammett (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 23-Apr-24



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Covington County; to provide for a booking fee to be imposed on each person booked into the Covington County Detention Center and subsequently convicted of a crime; to provide for the collection of the booking fee; and to provide for the distribution of the revenues derived from the booking fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. In Covington County, a booking fee in the amount of thirty dollars (\$30) shall be assessed against and collected from each person booked or incarcerated in the Covington County Detention Center as a county inmate and subsequently convicted. The fee assessed pursuant to this act shall be in addition to any fines, court costs, or other charges imposed. The fee shall not apply to a defendant or inmate housed in the detention center on behalf of a municipality.

Section 2. The booking fee imposed by this act shall be assessed against a defendant upon conviction by a court of law where the defendant is convicted. The clerk of the court shall enter the amount of the fee as provided in this act on the



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29 docket sheet and shall collect the fee in the same manner and
30 the same time as court costs, except the sheriff may collect
31 the fee pursuant to Section 5. The clerk of the court shall
32 notify the sheriff monthly of the booking fees imposed against
33 defendants during the prior month.

34 Section 3. The revenues derived from the booking fee
35 shall be submitted to the Covington County Sheriff's
36 Department Law Enforcement Fund to be used by the Sheriff of
37 Covington County for jail operations including, but not
38 limited to, training fees, salaries, equipment, jail
39 operational expenses, or other law enforcement uses as
40 determined by the sheriff to best meet the needs of his or her
41 agency.

42 Section 4. In any case where the booking fee provided
43 by this act is not paid or withheld pursuant to Section 5, the
44 district attorney of the county may assist in the collection
45 of the fees in the same manner as court-ordered monies. In
46 addition, the sheriff may contract for the collection of the
47 fees and pay a portion of the fees as a cost for collection.

48 Section 5. Upon receipt of notice of assessment of the
49 booking fee against a defendant, the sheriff may withhold
50 funds equal to the amount of the booking fee from any funds
51 held while a person is incarcerated in the Covington County
52 Detention Center and those funds may be applied toward any
53 assessment of a booking fee pursuant to this act. The sheriff
54 shall provide notice monthly to the clerk of the court of the
55 booking fees withheld from defendants during the prior month.

56 Section 6. Any revenues derived from this act shall be



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57 in addition to other funding sources for the Covington County
58 Detention Center and the Covington County Sheriff's Department
59 and shall not reduce or replace any funding from any other
60 sources.

61 Section 7. This act shall become effective on the first
62 day of the first month following the ratification of an
63 amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, proposed at
64 the 2024 Regular Session, authorizing the Legislature to
65 provide for additional court costs in Covington County and to
66 provide for the distribution of the proceeds.