

SB319 INTRODUCED



1 SB319
2 G3BX726-1
3 By Senator Beasley (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 09-Apr-25



A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Barbour County; to provide for new court costs; to provide for disbursement of fees; and conditioning operation on voter approval at a referendum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) Immediately upon approval by a majority of the voting qualified electors of Barbour County, in addition to any other court costs authorized in the county, there shall be taxed a fee as follows:

(1) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) in each civil case filed in any court, except for the small claims division of the district court.

(2) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) in all misdemeanor and felony criminal cases, including traffic offenses, upon conviction.

(3) Ten dollars (\$10) for each case filed in the small claims division of the district court.

(b) This fee shall not be waived by any court unless all other fees, assessments, costs, fines, and charges associated with the case are waived.

(c) The fees collected pursuant to this section shall



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be paid into a special fund created by the sheriff known as the Sheriff's Office Hazardous Duty Fund and shall be earmarked for hazardous duty payments to nonclerical employees of the sheriff's office who perform hazardous duties, excluding the sheriff. This fund shall be maintained by the sheriff or an individual designated by the sheriff and shall be audited by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts on the same schedule as other similar audits.

(d) (1) The sheriff shall certify to the county commission each employee who has engaged in hazardous duty and an amount sufficient to pay the employees. The funds shall then be disbursed from the Hazardous Duty Fund.

(2) At any time after the first disbursement of hazardous duty pay pursuant to subdivision (1), the commission and the sheriff may make hazardous duty payments semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly as they agree circumstances warrant, but may not make payments less often than once per year.

(3) The commission shall not take this act into consideration when considering salary increases for sheriff's office employees based on surveys, studies, or any other means when it comes to other county employees receiving salary increases.

(4) The commission shall not take this act into consideration when it comes to the annual budgetary funds issued to the sheriff's office for funds used for the everyday functioning of the sheriff's office.

Section 2. Section 1 shall become operative only if



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approved by a majority of the qualified electors of Barbour County who vote in an election to be held on the day designated by the Judge of Probate of Barbour County. The notice of the election shall be given by the judge of probate, and the election shall be held, conducted, and the results canvassed in the same manner as other county elections. The election shall be held in conjunction with the next regularly scheduled election to be held in the county. The question shall be, "Do you favor the adoption of Act No. ____, of the 2025 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, to provide hazardous duty pay to the nonclerical employees of the Barbour County Sheriff's Office, excluding the sheriff, by issuing a new court cost in Barbour County of no more than twenty-five dollars (\$25)? Yes() No()." The county shall pay any costs and expenses not otherwise reimbursed by a governmental agency which are incidental to the election. If a majority of the votes cast in the election are "Yes," Section 1 shall become operative immediately. If the majority of the votes are "No," this act shall be repealed and shall have no further effect. The Judge of Probate of Barbour County shall certify the results of the election to the Secretary of State.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2025.