

HB320 INTRODUCED



1 HB320
2 DGVZRNH-1
3 By Representatives Pettus, Hill
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 22-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

Existing law does not specifically address where the monies deposited into certain county funds are to be maintained.

This bill would require the monies deposited in both county law library funds and presiding circuit judge's judicial administration funds to be maintained in separate funds within the county treasury.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to county law library and judicial administration funds; to amend Sections 11-25-7 and 12-19-310, Code of Alabama 1975; to require county law library funds to be maintained in a separate fund in the county treasury; to require presiding circuit judge's judicial administration funds to be maintained in a separate fund in the county treasury; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.



HB320 INTRODUCED

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 11-25-7 and 12-19-310 are amended to read as follows:

"§11-25-7

Upon the establishment of a county law library under the provisions of this chapter, each county shall have and maintain a separate fund within the county treasury known as the County Law Library Fund and may have a separate law library fund for each law library in the county. The county law library funds shall consist of ~~funds~~monies appropriated by the state, county, or municipal governments~~;~~ ~~funds~~monies collected under the provisions of law~~;~~ proceeds from the sale of copies, books, and other materials, or received from donations, gifts, grants, and funds other than those appropriated, and shall be audited as other county funds are audited. ~~Said~~A county law library fund may be used to match grants for library purposes. Library funds may be used to pay library personnel. All purchases by or on behalf of ~~such a~~ county law library shall be exempt from all State of Alabama, county, or municipal sales, use, or other similar taxes."

"§12-19-310

(a) In addition to the docket fees now authorized by law, additional docket fees shall be assessed in all circuit, district, and municipal courts as follows:

(1) In civil cases in the circuit and district courts, except child support cases and as further provided for small claims cases, an additional docket fee of forty-five dollars (\$45) and in small claims cases an additional docket fee of



HB320 INTRODUCED

fifteen dollars (\$15).

(2) In criminal cases in the circuit, district, and municipal courts, except juvenile cases and as further provided for traffic cases, an additional docket fee of forty dollars (\$40) and in traffic cases, but excluding parking violations, an additional docket fee of twenty-six dollars (\$26).

(b) (1) Two dollars (\$2) of the traffic docket fee shall be distributed to the Police Officers' Annuity Fund before any distribution pursuant to subsections (c) and (d).

(2) Ten dollars (\$10) of each fee in municipal court shall be retained by the presiding municipal judge or the municipal court clerk for operation of the municipal court and, before any distribution in subsections (c) and (d), distributed to the municipality for the operation of the municipal courts.

(c) There is established in the State Treasury the State Judicial Administration Fund. Two-thirds of the docket fees collected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be distributed to the fund and used by the Administrative Office of Courts as determined by the Administrative Director of Courts for the operation of courts in this state.

(d) There is established in each judicial circuit of this state the Presiding Circuit Judge's Judicial Administration Fund and in each county in this state the Circuit Clerk's Judicial Administration Fund. One-sixth of the docket fees collected in each circuit pursuant to subsection (a) shall be distributed to the Presiding Circuit Judge's



HB320 INTRODUCED

Judicial Administration Fund in the circuit and maintained within the county treasury~~in the circuit~~. One-sixth of the docket fees collected in each county pursuant to subsection (a) shall be distributed to the Circuit Clerk's Judicial Administration Fund in the county.

(e)(1) The funds distributed pursuant to subsection (d) shall be expended for the support of local court operations, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits of court employees where necessary for the efficient operations of the courts in the circuit and for other expenses as individually determined necessary by the presiding circuit judge or any circuit clerk to promote efficient administration of justice. Funds distributed pursuant to subsection (d) shall not reduce the amount payable to the presiding circuit judge or any circuit clerk under any local act or general act or reduce or affect the amounts of funding allocated by the Administrative Office of Courts to the budget of the presiding circuit judge or any circuit clerk.

(2) In addition to subdivision (1) relating to the circuit clerk, each clerk, at his or her discretion, may use the money in the Circuit Clerk's Judicial Administration Fund for the purpose of awarding merit and ~~promotions~~promotion raises to full-time employees of the clerk's office.

(f) All expenditures of funds pursuant to this section shall be audited as all other state funds are audited.

(g) The docket fees assessed pursuant to this section shall not be waived or remitted by the court unless all docket fees associated with the case are waived or remitted.



HB320 INTRODUCED

113 (h) The court clerk shall distribute the fees provided
114 for in this section on a monthly basis as other costs and fees
115 are distributed."

116 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
117 1, 2026.