

**House Judiciary Reported Substitute for HB227**

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4 A BILL

5 TO BE ENTITLED

6 AN ACT

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8 Relating to the Administrative Office of Courts; to
9 amend Section 12-5-11, Code of Alabama 1975; to authorize the
10 Administrative Office of Courts to form and use a nonprofit
11 entity for judicial education expenses; to authorize the
12 entity to maintain accounts outside the State Treasury which
13 would be audited or reviewed annually; to authorize the
14 Administrative Office of Courts and other state agencies to
15 transfer funds to the entity to support judicial education; to
16 provide that this act is remedial and curative; **to exempt the**
17 **Alabama Judicial College Education Fund from paying sales and**
18 **use taxes;** and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to
19 update the existing code language to current style.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

21 Section 1. Section 12-5-11, Code of Alabama 1975, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 "§12-5-11

24 In connection with the continuing judicial education of
25 justices, judges, **circuit clerks,** and court-supportive
26 personnel, the **Administrative Office of Courts and the**
27 **Administrative Director of Courts is authorized to may:**

28 **(1) direct** the expenditure of funds appropriated



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29 to the account of the National College of State Trial Judges
 30 or any college of judges by whatever name the account appears,
 31 or to any accounts ~~or judicial education~~ for the judicial
 32 education of any justice, judge, circuit clerk, or
 33 court-supportive personnel;

34 (2) ~~and may direct~~ Direct that the actual and
 35 reasonable expenses incurred by a justice, judge, circuit
 36 clerk, or court-supportive personnel attending the National
 37 College of State Judiciary or any other college, institute,
 38 conference, seminar, or organization be paid;

39 (3)a. Create and use a nonprofit entity as defined by
 40 26 U.S.C § 501(c) (3) to develop, implement, manage, and fund
 41 judicial educational plans, conferences, and programs. The
 42 entity may collect nonpublic funds to support this purpose;

43 b. An entity created under paragraph a. may hold
 44 nonpublic funds in an account or accounts maintained outside
 45 of the State Treasury, provided the account or accounts are
 46 audited or reviewed annually by a certified, independent
 47 accounting entity;

48 c. Any money received by the nonprofit entity that
 49 exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) from a
 50 single nonpublic source within a fiscal year shall be made
 51 publicly available as part of the entity's audit obligations
 52 under paragraph b. Conference registration fees or other
 53 similar payments for participation in educational events shall
 54 not be considered outside funds for purposes of this
 55 paragraph; and

56 d. Funds received by an entity created under this

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57 subsection may not be conditioned upon, directed to, or
58 restricted for the benefit of a particular justice, judge or
59 judges, circuit clerk, or court-supportive personnel. General

60 support provided to develop or expand judicial education
61 programs shall not be considered a prohibited restriction;

62 (4) Transfer state funds to the nonprofit to support
63 judicial education purposes; and

64 (5) House the entity created under paragraph (3)a. at
65 the Administrative Office of Courts and staff the entity with
66 employees of the Administrative Office of Courts."

67 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Judicial College Education
68 Fund is exempt from paying state sales and use taxes.

69 (b) Any county or municipality may exempt this entity
70 from the payment of county or municipal sales and use taxes in
71 accordance with Section 40-23-4.01, Code of Alabama 1975.

72 (c) The exemption provided by this section is effective
73 September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2031.

74 Section 3. The provisions of Section 1 of this act are
75 remedial and curative and any actions taken by the
76 Administrative Office of Courts in conformance with this act
77 are ratified and confirmed.

78 Section 4. This act shall become effective on May 1,
79 2026.