

SB150 INTRODUCED



1 SB150
2 DGXSZHH-1
3 By Senator Albritton
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, municipal courts collect additional docket fees. Ten dollars of each fee is then retained by the municipal court for its operation.

This bill would require the ten dollars to be deposited into the State General Fund in lieu of being retained by the municipal court.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to court fees; to amend Section 12-19-310, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that certain court fees are deposited into the State General Fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 12-19-310, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§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



SB150 INTRODUCED

claims cases, an additional docket fee of forty-five dollars (\$45) and in small claims cases an additional docket fee of 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,~~ deposited into the State General Fund 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



SB150 INTRODUCED

docket fees collected in each circuit pursuant to subsection (a) shall be distributed to the Presiding Circuit Judge's Judicial Administration Fund 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 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



SB150 INTRODUCED

85 fees associated with the case are waived or remitted.

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

89 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
90 1, 2026.