

SB150 INTRODUCED



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



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4 SYNOPSIS:

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

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

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13 A BILL

14 TO BE ENTITLED

15 AN ACT

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

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

23 "§12-19-310

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

27 (1) In civil cases in the circuit and district courts,
28 except child support cases and as further provided for small



29 claims cases, an additional docket fee of forty-five dollars
30 (\$45) and in small claims cases an additional docket fee of
31 fifteen dollars (\$15).

32 (2) In criminal cases in the circuit, district, and
33 municipal courts, except juvenile cases and as further
34 provided for traffic cases, an additional docket fee of forty
35 dollars (\$40) and in traffic cases, but excluding parking
36 violations, an additional docket fee of twenty-six dollars
37 (\$26).

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

41 (2) Ten dollars (\$10) of each fee in municipal court
42 shall be ~~retained by the presiding municipal judge or the~~
43 ~~municipal court clerk for operation of the municipal court~~
44 ~~and, deposited into the State General Fund~~ before any
45 distribution in subsections (c) and (d). ~~or distributed to the~~
46 ~~municipality for the operation of the municipal courts.~~

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

53 (d) There is established in each judicial circuit of
54 this state the Presiding Circuit Judge's Judicial
55 Administration Fund and in each county in this state the
56 Circuit Clerk's Judicial Administration Fund. One-sixth of the



57 docket fees collected in each circuit pursuant to subsection
58 (a) shall be distributed to the Presiding Circuit Judge's
59 Judicial Administration Fund in the circuit. One-sixth of the
60 docket fees collected in each county pursuant to subsection
61 (a) shall be distributed to the Circuit Clerk's Judicial
62 Administration Fund in the county.

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

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

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

83 (g) The docket fees assessed pursuant to this section
84 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.