AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:168(F), relative to the judicial district indigent defender fund; to provide for payments to expert witnesses; to provide for who qualifies for the funds; to provide for disbursement of the funds; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.  R.S. 15:168(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§168. Judicial district indigent defender fund

* * *

F.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each judicial district is allowed to accumulate funds for the purposes of retaining expert witnesses. The district public defender, in his discretion, shall determine how payments shall be administered and which experts shall be paid.

(2) Any person who has retained private counsel, but is found to be indigent, may apply for funds for expert witnesses in the same manner as public defender clients. Each person shall apply for the funds by making application to the district defender of the district having jurisdiction and shall be subject to the same requirements as indigent clients.

(3) No court shall have jurisdiction to order the payment of any funds administered by the Louisiana Public Defender Board or district public defender for expert witnesses.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.