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## DIGEST

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HB 7 Original

2017 Regular Session

White

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Washington Parish governing authority to transmit surplus witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers to the Washington Parish criminal court fund.

Present law requires that witness fees be paid from court costs collected in individual cases tried in district or parish courts or in any court with juvenile jurisdiction or cases in which there is a plea of guilty or conviction. Such costs shall be placed in a special fund that is maintained and administered by the governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law authorizes the Washington Parish governing authority to transmit all surplus monies in the special fund that exceed \$5,000 at the end of each calendar year to the criminal court fund of the parish by March 31st of each calendar year to be used for the same purposes that the present funds are being used.

Proposed law defines "special fund" as the special fund provided for in present law, and "surplus monies" as the amount of money which is in each special fund at the end of each calendar year and which is in excess of the total amount paid from each special fund as witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers in that calendar year.

Proposed law prohibits any money obligated to be paid to any officer or agency for an off-duty law enforcement court appearance from being considered surplus money.

(Adds R.S. 15:255(S))