

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

COURTS/COURT COSTS: Provides relative to the transfer of surplus monies in the Fourth JDC

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:3049(B)(1)(e)(vii) and R.S. 15:255(T), relative to costs of court; to provide  
3 relative to witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers; to provide relative to  
4 juror compensation; to authorize the transfer of witness fee surplus funds and juror  
5 compensation surplus funds within the Fourth Judicial District; to provide for the  
6 transfer procedures and use of funds; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:3049(B)(1)(e)(vii) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3049. Cash deposit; bond; duty to attend; compensation; procedure; filing fees

10 \* \* \*

11 B.(1)

12 \* \* \*

13 (e)

14 \* \* \*

15 (vii)(aa) Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, surplus monies in  
16 the special fund of each parish within the Fourth Judicial District shall upon request,  
17 be transmitted by the governing authority of each parish to the Fourth Judicial  
18 District Court for deposit into the judicial expense fund.

19 (bb) As used in this Item, "special fund" means the special fund provided for  
20 in this Subparagraph, and "surplus monies" means the amount of money that is in

1 each special fund at the end of each calendar year and that is in excess of the total  
2 amount paid for jury fees and costs during that calendar year. No money obligated  
3 to be paid to any juror as a fee or cost for attendance for jury duty shall be considered  
4 surplus money pursuant to this Item.

5 (cc) Surplus monies transferred to the Fourth Judicial District Court's judicial  
6 expense fund shall be transferred at any time upon request by the court, and may be  
7 used for the same purposes as the existing funds in the judicial expense fund.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 2. R.S. 15:255(T) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §255. Witness fees to off-duty law enforcement officers

11 \* \* \*

12 T. In the Fourth Judicial District, surplus monies in the special fund in each  
13 of the parishes in that district shall be transmitted by the governing authorities of  
14 those parishes to the judicial expense fund of the Fourth Judicial District Court upon  
15 request by the court. As used in this Subsection, "special fund" means the special  
16 fund provided for in Subsection D of this Section, and "surplus monies" means the  
17 amount of money which is in each special fund at the end of each calendar year and  
18 which is in excess of the total amount paid from each special fund as witness fees for  
19 off-duty law enforcement officers in that calendar year. The surplus monies which  
20 are required to be transferred by this Subsection may be used for any purpose for  
21 which the other monies in the judicial expense fund of the Fourth Judicial District  
22 Court may be used. No money obligated to be paid to any officer or agency for an  
23 off-duty law enforcement court appearance shall be considered surplus monies  
24 pursuant to this Subsection.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 213 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Jackson

**Abstract:** Requires any surplus witness and juror fees collected by the 4th Judicial District to be transferred to the judicial expense fund.

Present law requires the district court judge or judges for each judicial district to adopt a schedule of costs to be applied to each case before the court. These costs shall be placed in special funds (separately, a juror fund and a witness fund) to be maintained by the proper governing authorities and used to pay witness and juror fees.

Proposed law requires surplus money in the special accounts to be transferred to the judicial expense fund. The transferred money may be used for any purpose for which the other monies in the judicial expense fund of the 4th Judicial District may be used. Surplus monies must be transferred upon the request of the court.

(Adds R.S. 13:3049(B)(1)(e)(vii) and R.S. 15:255(T))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Requires surplus funds to be transferred upon the request of the court, and deletes the proposed law deadline of Jan. 31st.