

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 219

BY SENATOR JACKSON

COURTS. Authorizes judicial district indigent defender funds to be used for the purposes of retaining expert witnesses. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT

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

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

7 §168. Judicial district indigent defender fund

8 \* \* \*

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

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

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SB 219 Original                                  DIGEST                                  Jackson  
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Proposed law authorizes judicial districts to accumulate funds for the purposes of retaining expert witnesses, and provides that the district public defender, in his discretion, will determine how payments will be administered and which experts will be paid.

Proposed law allows a person who has retained private counsel, but is found to be indigent, to apply for funds for expert witnesses in the same manner as public defender clients.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 15:168(F))