

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE LOPINTO

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Authorizes payment of witness fees to retired law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers in certain cases

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:255.1, relative to retired or former law enforcement officers; to provide for  
3 the payment of witness fees to retired or former law enforcement officers in certain  
4 cases; to provide for the procedure for collection and payment of fees; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:255.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §255.1. Witness fees to retired or former law enforcement officers

9 A. Unless otherwise provided for by law for a particular jurisdiction,  
10 whenever a retired or former law enforcement officer is required to be present, as a  
11 witness in any criminal case or delinquency adjudication in any district or parish  
12 court or any court exercising juvenile jurisdiction, to testify as to events which  
13 occurred during his employment as a law enforcement officer, the retired or former  
14 law enforcement officer shall be paid the sum of fifty dollars for each day per case,  
15 but not more than one hundred fifty dollars in any one day, regardless of the number  
16 of cases for which he is required to be present or whether he actually testified in the  
17 case, and which sum shall be paid from those costs of court collected pursuant to the  
18 provisions of R.S. 15:255(D)(1) and (2).

19 B. The retired or former law enforcement officer shall submit to the parish  
20 governing authority an application for payment of the fee, accompanied by

1        documentation verifying service as a witness. Within sixty days of receipt of the  
2        application for the fee, along with accompanying documentation, the governing  
3        authority of the parish shall transmit the fees due under this Section to the retired or  
4        former law enforcement officer.

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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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Lopinto

HB No. 131

**Abstract:** Requires payment of witness fees to retired or former law enforcement officers.

Proposed law requires the payment of witness fees to a former or retired law enforcement officer who is required to be present as a witness in any criminal case or delinquency adjudication in any district or parish court or any court exercising juvenile jurisdiction.

Proposed law provides for the payment of \$50 each day per case, but not more than \$150 in any one day regardless of the number of cases for which he is required to be present or whether he actually testified, and further requires that the sum be paid from court costs collected in individual cases tried in district or parish courts or in any court exercising juvenile jurisdiction.

Proposed law requires the retired or former law enforcement officer to submit an application and verifying documentation for service as a witness to the governing authority of the parish who shall within 60 days of receipt of the application and documentation transmit the fees due to the retired or former law enforcement officer.

(Adds R.S. 15:255.1)