
DIGEST

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SB 136 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Ward

Present law provides that no payment of attorney fees shall be made out of state funds in the absence of express statutory authority, except such payment of attorney fees as may be approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) during the interim between legislative sessions.

Proposed law eliminates that requirement and provides that the litigation subcommittee of the JCB can approve such fees at any time.

Present law prohibits the attorney general, or any state agency, board, or commission, not including any public postsecondary education institution, from incurring fees for legal services in excess of the greater of \$500 per hour per person or the maximum rate approved by the Attorney Fee Review Board.

Proposed law increases the limitation to \$1,000 per hour per person.

Proposed law provides that any contract with an hourly fee of \$750 or more, paid from the Dept. of Justice Legal Support Fund, shall be reported to the JLCB within 90 days of the contract's execution.

Present law provides that certain proceeds recovered by the attorney general shall be deposited each fiscal year into the Department of Justice Legal Support Fund. Provides that the proceeds shall be up to the amount needed to bring the unencumbered fund balance to \$10 million. Further provides that the fund balance shall not exceed \$10 million.

Proposed law increases the amount of the fund balance from \$10 million to \$20 million.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 42:262(B) and (D) and R.S. 49:259(B) and (C)(2) and (3); Adds R.S. 49:259(F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the reengrossed bill:

1. Increase the amount of the maximum fund balance of the Dept. of Justice Legal Support Fund from \$10 million to \$20 million.