

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COURTS: Provides for the transfer of certain surplus witness fee funds to the criminal court fund of Washington Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:255(S), relative to witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers; to  
3 authorize the transfer of certain witness fee surplus funds within Washington Parish;  
4 to provide for the transfer procedures and use of such funds; to provide for  
5 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:255(S) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

9 \* \* \*

10 S. No later than March thirty-first of each year, the governing authority of  
11 Washington Parish may transmit to the criminal court fund of Washington Parish all  
12 surplus monies in its special fund that exceed five thousand dollars at the end of each  
13 calendar year. As used in this Subsection, "special fund" means the special fund  
14 provided for in Subsection D of this Section, and "surplus monies" means the amount  
15 of money which is in each special fund at the end of each calendar year and which  
16 is in excess of the total amount paid from each special fund as witness fees for off-  
17 duty law enforcement officers in that calendar year. The surplus monies authorized  
18 to be transferred by this Subsection may be used for any purpose for which the other  
19 monies in the criminal court fund of the parish may be used. No money obligated

- 1           to be paid to any officer or agency for an off-duty law enforcement court appearance  
2           shall be considered surplus monies 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 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))