

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 102

BY REPRESENTATIVES ZERINGUE AND MAGEE

COURTS: Provides for the transfer of certain witness fee surplus funds within Lafourche Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:255(T), relative to witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers; to  
3 authorize the transfer of certain witness fee surplus funds within Lafourche 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(T) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

9 \* \* \*

10 T. No later than April thirtieth of each year, the governing authority of  
11 Lafourche Parish shall transfer to the criminal court fund of Lafourche Parish all  
12 surplus monies in its special fund that exceed ten 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 transferred  
18 pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection may be used for any purpose for which  
19 the other monies in the criminal court fund of the parish may be used. No money  
20 obligated to be paid to any officer or agency for an off-duty law enforcement court  
21 appearance 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 102 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Requires any surplus monies in the special witness fee fund to be transferred to the criminal court fund of Lafourche Parish.

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

Proposed law requires all surplus monies, in excess of \$10,000, to be transferred to the criminal court fund of Lafourche Parish at the end of the calendar year. Surplus monies must be transferred no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The surplus monies authorized for transfer may be used for any purpose for which the other monies in the criminal court fund of the parish may be used.

(Adds 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. Changes the proposed law deadline for transferring surplus funds from March 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year to April 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year.