

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE COUSSAN

COURTS/COURT COSTS: Provides relative to court costs in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:996.25(A) and to enact R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v), relative to court  
3 costs in the Fifteenth Judicial Court; to require the judges to determine certain fees  
4 to be paid to court reporters; to provide for an increase in civil court costs; to provide  
5 for an increase in criminal court costs; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:996.25(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and 13:961(F)(1)(v)  
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §961. Court reporters; generally

10 \* \* \*

11 F.(1)(a)

12 \* \* \*

13 (v) In the Fifteenth Judicial District, in all cases, except those to be filed in  
14 forma pauperis, a fee determined by a majority of the judges for each page and each  
15 copied page of all testimony reported and transcribed shall be charged by and paid  
16 to the court reporter.

17 \* \* \*

18 §996.25. Judicial Expense Fund for Fifteenth Judicial District; established

19 A. In addition to all other fees or costs now or hereafter provided by law, the  
20 clerk of court of the Fifteenth Judicial District shall collect from every person filing

1 any type of civil suit or proceeding and who is not otherwise exempted by law from  
 2 the payment of court costs, a sum to be determined by the judges of ~~said~~ the district,  
 3 sitting en banc, which sum shall not exceed ~~fifteen~~ thirty-five dollars, subject,  
 4 however, to the provisions of Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Article 5181, et  
 5 seq. In all criminal cases over which the Fifteenth Judicial District Court has  
 6 jurisdiction, there shall be taxed as costs against every defendant who is convicted  
 7 after trial or after plea of guilty or who forfeits his bond, a sum likewise determined,  
 8 but which shall not exceed ~~five~~ twenty dollars and which shall be in addition to all  
 9 other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed and which shall be transmitted to  
 10 the ~~said~~ clerk for further disposition in accordance ~~herewith~~ with the provisions of  
 11 this Section.

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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 83 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Coussan

**Abstract:** Provides for an increase in civil and criminal court costs in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC and requires the judges to set the fees to be paid to the court reporter.

Present law provides for the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC to collect a filing fee no greater than \$15 in all civil court matters. Provides for the assessment of criminal court costs not to exceed \$5. Additionally, in all civil and criminal cases, there is a fee not to exceed \$1.50 per 31-line page and 25 cents per copy reported and transcribed to be paid to the court reporter as compensation, in addition to the court reporter salary.

Proposed law increases the criminal court fee assessed to certain defendants from a sum no greater than \$5 to a sum not to exceed \$20 dollars. Also increases the civil court filing fees from a sum no greater than \$15 to a sum not to exceed \$35. Additionally, requires the fee amounts for transcripts and copies to be determined by a majority vote of the judges in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC to be paid to the court reporters in addition to their salary.

(Amends R.S. 13:996.25(A); Adds R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(v))