

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 219

BY SENATOR JACKSON

COURTS. Authorizes judicial district indigent defender funds to be used for the purposes of retaining expert witnesses. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:168(F), relative to the judicial district indigent defender fund; to provide
3 for payments to expert witnesses; to provide for who qualifies for the funds; to
4 provide for disbursement of the funds; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:168(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §168. Judicial district indigent defender fund

8 * * *

9 **F.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each judicial**
10 **district is allowed to accumulate funds for the purposes of retaining expert**
11 **witnesses. The district public defender, in his discretion, shall determine how**
12 **payments shall be administered and which experts shall be paid.**

13 **(2) Any person who has retained private counsel, but is found to be**
14 **indigent, may apply for funds for expert witnesses in the same manner as public**
15 **defender clients. Each person shall apply for the funds by making application**
16 **to the district defender of the district having jurisdiction and shall be subject**
17 **to the same requirements as indigent clients.**

