SENATE BILL NO. 219

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§168. Judicial district indigent defender fund

* * *

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

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

(3) No court shall have jurisdiction to order the payment of any funds
administered by the Louisiana Public Defender Board or district public
defender for expert witnesses.