

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 347

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS

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

COURTS/COURT COSTS: Provides relative to court costs and civil filing fees in Alexandria City Court

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1875(12)(c) and 1899(B), relative to the City Court of
3 Alexandria; to provide relative to the use of civil filing fees and court costs in
4 criminal matters; to provide relative to the general fund of the city of Alexandria; to
5 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:1875(12)(c) and 1899(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to
8 read as follows:

9 §1875. Compensation of city judges; particular courts

10 * * *

11 (12)

12 * * *

13 (c) One-half of civil fees assessed and collected shall be ~~transmitted, on a~~
14 ~~monthly basis, by the clerk of the city court for deposit to the general fund of the city~~
15 ~~of Alexandria~~ used for the operational expenses of the City Court of Alexandria and
16 one-half thereof shall be transmitted for deposit to the general fund of the Rapides
17 Parish Police Jury.

18 * * *

19 §1899. Assessment and disposition of costs in criminal cases; costs in juvenile
20 matters for specified courts

21 * * *

1 B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the proceeds derived from these
2 costs shall be deposited in a special account which shall be subject to audit, and used
3 for the operational expenses of the court or for the payment of clerical fees or other
4 similar expenditures as may be approved by the judge.

5 (2) In lieu of the requirement to use the costs assessed in criminal matters for
6 the operational expenses of the court pursuant to Paragraph(B)(1) of this Subsection,
7 all fines, fees, including probation fees, or costs of court assessed and collected by
8 the City Court of Alexandria pursuant to Subsection A shall be deposited in the
9 general fund of the city of Alexandria.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. R.S. 13:1875(12)(c) and 1899(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to
12 read as follows:

13 §1875. Compensation of city judges; particular courts

14 * * *

15 (12)

16 * * *

17 (c) One-half of civil fees assessed and collected shall be ~~used for the~~
18 ~~operational expenses of the City Court of Alexandria~~ transmitted, on a monthly basis,
19 by the clerk of the city court for deposit to the general fund of the city of Alexandria
20 and one-half thereof shall be transmitted for deposit to the general fund of the
21 Rapides Parish Police Jury.

22 * * *

23 §1899. Assessment and disposition of costs in criminal cases; costs in juvenile
24 matters for specified courts

25 * * *

26 B.~~(1)~~ Except as otherwise provided by law, the proceeds derived from these
27 costs shall be deposited in a special account which shall be subject to audit, and used
28 for the operational expenses of the court or for the payment of clerical fees or other
29 similar expenditures as may be approved by the judge.

1 (2) ~~In lieu of the requirement to use the costs assessed in criminal matters for~~
2 ~~the operational expenses of the court pursuant to Paragraph(B)(1) of this Subsection,~~
3 ~~all fines, fees, including probation fees, or costs of court assessed and collected by~~
4 ~~the City Court of Alexandria pursuant to Subsection A shall be deposited in the~~
5 ~~general fund of the city of Alexandria.~~

* * *

7 Section 3. Section 1 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

8 Section 4. Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

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)]

HB 347 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Harris

Abstract: Changes the allocation of court costs and civil filing fees in Alexandria City Court.

Present law provides that one-half of the civil filing fees assessed and collected by the City Court of Alexandria shall be deposited in the general fund of the city of Alexandria.

Proposed law changes the use of the civil filing fees assessed and collected by the city court of Alexandria and provides that such costs shall be used for the operational expenses of the court.

Present law provides that additional costs in all criminal matters, including traffic violations, assessed and collected by the city court of Alexandria shall be used for the operational expenses of the court.

Proposed law changes the use of the additional costs in criminal matters, including traffic violations, and provides that such costs shall be deposited in the general fund of the city of Alexandria.

The proposed law re-allocation of court costs becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2024, and remains effective until Jan. 1, 2026, at which time the allocation of court costs revert back to present law.

(Amends R.S. 13:1875(12)(c) and 1899(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Sunset the changes to present law on Jan. 1, 2026, to revert back to present law.