

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 644**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Brown**

**COURTS/COURT COSTS: Provides for the assessment of a fee for filing civil and criminal matters**

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DIGEST

Present law requires the collection of an additional court cost in the amount of 50¢ to be collected by the supreme court, appellate courts, district courts, parish courts, and city courts, upon civil filings and traffic matters, with exceptions for some juvenile and family matters. Requires the costs collected to be used to defray the costs associated with the growth and program improvement of the Judicial College.

Present law provides that the 50¢ cost shall be collected for the initial filing in all civil matters, with no exceptions, and provides that the 50¢ cost shall be assessed as court costs for criminal convictions, including traffic offenses. Requires an annual audit of the funds.

Proposed law retains present law but increases the amount to \$2.50. Further requires that one-third of the funds collected be used solely for the defrayment of the costs of the Judicial College.

Proposed law requires that the remainder of funds be used to coordinate efforts between the Judicial College and the supreme court on education regarding judicial ethics and best practices of the court or enforcement of judicial ethics.

Proposed law provides for an effective date of Jan. 1, 2026, if the Judicial Council provides a recommendation that such court costs and fees meet applicable guidelines.

(Amends R.S. 13:86)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide an effective date of Jan. 1, 2026, if approved by the Judicial Council.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Increase the court costs from \$1.50 to \$2.50.