

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 299 (HB 644)

2025 Regular Session

Brown

Existing law requires the collection of an additional court cost 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. Prior law provided that this additional court cost is 50¢.

Existing 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.

New law retains existing 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.

New 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.

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

(Amends R.S. 13:86)