

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1631, relative to the judicial expense fund for the Juvenile
3 Court of East Baton Rouge Parish; to modify relative to the chief judge and all
4 judges of the court; to establish functions of the collective judges; to authorize the
5 clerk of court to collect certain additional costs in civil and criminal nonsupport
6 proceedings; to provide for the control, expenditure, and audit of monies in the
7 judicial expense fund; to increase the civil filing fee; to prohibit payment of salaries
8 from the judicial expense fund; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 13:1631 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §1631. Judicial expense fund for the Juvenile Court for the parish of East Baton
12 Rouge; established; disbursements

13 A. In addition to all other fees or costs ~~now or hereafter~~ provided by law, the
14 clerk of court of the Nineteenth Judicial District shall collect from every person
15 filing any action, suit, or motion and rule to show cause on the docket of the Juvenile
16 Court of East Baton Rouge Parish and who is not otherwise ~~exempted~~ exempt by law
17 from the payment of court costs, a sum to be determined by the ~~chief judge of the~~
18 court, but judges of the court, sitting en banc, which sum shall not to exceed ~~fifteen~~
19 forty-five dollars, subject, however, to the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure
20 Article 5181 et seq.; and in all criminal nonsupport cases over which the court has
21 jurisdiction, including contempt proceedings provided for by Children's Code Article
22 1353, there shall be taxed as costs against every defendant who is convicted after
23 trial or after plea of guilty or who forfeits his bond, a sum ~~likewise determined, but~~

1 not to exceed ten dollars, which shall be in addition to all other fines, costs, or
 2 forfeitures lawfully imposed, and which shall be transmitted to the clerk for further
 3 disposition in accordance ~~herewith~~ with this Section.

4 B. The clerk of court shall place all sums collected or received ~~under~~
 5 pursuant to this Section in a separate account to be designated as the judicial expense
 6 fund for the Juvenile Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge. The ~~chief judge of~~
 7 ~~the court~~ judges, en banc, of the Juvenile Court of East Baton Rouge Parish shall
 8 ~~have control over~~ the fund and all disbursements ~~made therefrom~~. The chief judge
 9 The judges shall cause to be conducted annually an audit of the fund, ~~and~~ the books,
 10 and related accounts ~~relating thereto~~ and shall file ~~the same~~ a copy of the audit with
 11 the office of the legislative auditor, where it shall be available for public inspection.

12 C. The ~~chief judge~~ judges, en banc, of the court Juvenile Court of East Baton
 13 Rouge Parish, in lieu of all or any part of the fees for reporting and transcribing
 14 testimony authorized ~~under~~ pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 13:961(F) or other
 15 applicable laws, and in addition to salaries otherwise provided, authorized, or
 16 established by law, may fix and pay each court reporter a salary from the judicial
 17 expense fund. The ~~chief judge~~ judges, en banc, may further appoint ~~such~~ secretarial,
 18 clerical, research, administrative, or other personnel necessary to expedite the
 19 business and function of the court and fix and pay all or any part of the salaries of
 20 such personnel out of the monies in the judicial expense fund. In like manner, the
 21 ~~chief judge~~ judges, en banc, may utilize the monies in the judicial expense fund to
 22 pay all or any part of the cost of establishing or maintaining a law library for the
 23 court, or for buying or maintaining any type of equipment, supplies, or other items
 24 consistent with or germane to the efficient operation of the court. In general, the
 25 judicial expense fund is established and may be used for any purpose or purposes
 26 connected with, incidental to, or related to the proper administration or functions of
 27 the court, or of the ~~office~~ offices of the individual ~~judge~~ judges, and is in addition to
 28 any and all other funds, salaries, expenses, or other monies authorized by law for any
 29 of these purposes.

1 D. No salary shall be paid from the judicial expense fund to a judge of the
2 court.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____