

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 295 by Representative Johnson

COURTS/MAYORS: Authorizes an increase in court costs in the mayor's court for the town of Mansura

Synopsis of Senate Amendments	
1.	Added provisions relative to the election and duties of a chief executive officer of a mayor's court in certain municipalities of between not less than 600 nor more than 700 persons.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 33:441) authorizes a mayor, as the presiding officer of a mayor's court, to impose court costs, not to exceed \$30 for each offense, on any defendant convicted of a violation of a municipal ordinance.

Proposed law authorizes the mayor for the town of Mansura to impose additional court costs not to exceed \$85 for each offense on any defendant convicted of a violation of a municipal ordinance.

Proposed law also provides relative to the chief executive officer of a mayor's court in certain municipalities of between not less than 600 nor more than 700 persons. Provides that when municipality's governing authority is not specifically required by law to appoint the chief of police, a chief of police shall be elected to attend the court and serve its process and act as its executive officer. Provides that such chief of police shall be elected at the same time as the mayor and members of the board of aldermen of the municipality. Also provides that for elections, at the time of qualification as a candidate for the office of chief of police, the candidate shall have been domiciled and have been an elector for at least the immediately preceding year in the parish in which the municipality is located. Further provides that such chief of police elected pursuant to the proposed law shall have all power, authority, and responsibility provided for an elected chief of police or marshal and be the head of the municipal police department. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 33:423 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief of police may take whatever steps are necessary to effect disciplinary action concerning police personnel, including but not limited to suspension. Any such disciplinary action shall be taken without regard to race, creed, or color and shall be subjected to review by the mayor and board of aldermen. The board of aldermen of the municipality may, upon recommendation of the mayor, contract with or enter into any cooperative endeavor with any law enforcement entity or officer within the parish in which the municipality is located for police services for said municipality. In any event, the municipality shall adequately fund the salary, payroll, personnel and administrative operations of the chief of police and the municipal police department.

(Adds R.S. 33:447.11 and 447.12)