

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

COURTS/CITY: Provides for the collection of additional court costs in Baton Rouge City Court to fund technology enhancements

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:2002.2, relative to city courts; to authorize the clerk of the Baton Rouge  
3 City Court to collect additional costs in civil matters; to authorize the judges of the  
4 Baton Rouge City Court to assess an additional fee in all criminal matters; to  
5 authorize the creation of a court technology fund for Baton Rouge City Court; to  
6 provide for the disposition and use of such funds; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:2002.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2002.2. Additional court costs or fees; court technology fund; Baton Rouge City  
10 Court

11 A. In addition to any other fees or costs imposed or authorized to be imposed  
12 and collected, in all civil cases in which the Baton Rouge City Court has jurisdiction,  
13 the clerk may impose a fee not to exceed ten dollars per filing. The fee shall be paid  
14 to the clerk of court at the time of filing. The collection of the additional fee shall  
15 be subject to the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Article 5181.

16 B. In all criminal cases, including traffic offenses, the judge may assess a fee  
17 not to exceed ten dollars against every defendant who is convicted after trial or who  
18 pleads guilty or forfeits bond, to be collected by the appropriate entity for further  
19 disposition in accordance with the provisions of this Section. These costs shall be  
20 in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures provided for by law.

- 1           C. The clerk of court shall place all sums collected pursuant to the provisions  
 2           of this Section into a separate account to be known as the "court technology fund".  
 3           All funds in the account are to be expended solely by the clerk of court for the  
 4           acquisition and maintenance of new and existing electronic case management  
 5           systems, including costs associated with professional services, licensing, support,  
 6           and equipment required to operate and maintain such systems, and for the acquisition  
 7           and maintenance of equipment necessary for technology enhancements of court  
 8           operations. The clerk shall have control over the account and all disbursements  
 9           made from the account.
- 10           D. The Baton Rouge City Court shall obtain approval of the local governing  
 11           authority within the territorial jurisdiction of the court, through the adoption of a  
 12           resolution or ordinance prior to the creation of the account and the collection of fees  
 13           authorized by this Section.

## 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 69 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

James

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Baton Rouge City Clerk of Court to collect a fee not to exceed ten dollars in civil and criminal matters to be used for the acquisition and maintenance of new and existing electronic case management systems.

Proposed law authorizes the clerk of the Baton Rouge City Court to collect an additional fee not to exceed \$10 in all civil filings, subject to the provisions of present law (C.C.P. Art. 5181), which provides an exception for those individuals who are unable to pay court costs due to poverty or lack of means.

Proposed law authorizes Baton Rouge City Court judges to assess an additional fee not to exceed \$10 against every defendant in criminal cases, including traffic offenses, who is convicted after trial or who pleads guilty or forfeits bond.

Proposed law requires the clerk to deposit all funds collected into a separate account (court technology fund) to be expended solely by the clerk for the acquisition and maintenance of new and existing electronic case management systems, including costs associated with professional services, licensing, support, and equipment for such systems, and for technology enhancements of court operations.

Proposed law requires the adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the local governing authority prior to the creation of the account and the collection of fees.

(Adds R.S. 13:2002.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Clarify that the clerk may impose a fee in all civil cases.