

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 306

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides relative to court costs and fees in domestic abuse cases

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:2136.1(A), relative to court costs in domestic abuse cases; to
3 provide relative to costs incurred in enforcing domestic violence cases; to provide
4 relative to costs after the initial hearing; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:2136.1(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §2136.1. Costs paid by abuser

8 A.(1) Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, all court costs,
9 attorney fees, costs of enforcement ~~and modification~~ proceedings, costs of appeal,
10 evaluation fees, and expert witness fees incurred in ~~maintaining or defending~~ any
11 proceeding concerning domestic abuse assistance in accordance with the provisions
12 of this Part shall be paid by the perpetrator of the domestic violence, including all
13 costs of medical and psychological care for the abused adult, or for any of the
14 children, necessitated by the domestic violence.

15 (2) After the initial hearing contemplated by R.S. 46:2135, all costs shall be
16 assessed as in any other civil proceeding, and each party is responsible for respective
17 attorney fees.

18 * * *

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 306 Original

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Edmonston

Abstract: Provides relative to costs and attorney fees after an initial hearing in domestic violence cases.

Present law (R.S. 46:2136.1(A)) requires all court costs, attorney fees, costs of enforcement and modification proceedings, cost of appeal, evaluation fees and expert witness fees incurred in maintaining or defending domestic abuse cases to be paid by the perpetrator of the domestic violence unless the court determines that the petition was frivolous.

Proposed law changes present law and removes the costs associated with modification or maintaining proceedings concerning domestic abuse. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 46:2136.1(A)(2)) provides that after the initial hearing contemplated by R.S. 46:2135, all costs will be assessed as in any other civil proceeding and each party will be responsible for respective attorney fees.

(Amends R.S. 46:2136.1(A))