

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 559

BY REPRESENTATIVE FISHER

COURTS/COURT COSTS: Increases court costs for the Fourth Judicial District

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:996.42(A), relative to court costs; to increase maximum filing
3 fees and court costs to deposit into the judicial expense fund for the Fourth Judicial
4 District; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:996.42(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
7 §996.42. Judicial expense fund for Fourth Judicial District

8 A. In addition to all other fees or costs now or hereafter provided by law,
9 each clerk of court in the Fourth Judicial District shall collect from every person
10 filing any type of civil suit or proceeding, and who is not otherwise exempted by law
11 from the payment of court costs, a sum to be determined by the judges of said
12 district, sitting en banc, which sum shall not exceed ~~fifteen~~ thirty-five dollars,
13 subject, however, to the provisions of Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Article
14 5181, et seq. In all criminal cases over which the Fourth Judicial District Court has
15 jurisdiction, there shall be taxed as costs against every defendant who is convicted
16 after trial, or after he pleads guilty, or who forfeits his bond, a sum likewise
17 determined, but which shall not exceed ~~fifteen~~ thirty-five dollars, which shall be in
18 addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed, and which shall be
19 transmitted to the said clerk for further disposition in accordance herewith.

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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 559 Original

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Fisher

Abstract: Increases the maximum sum collected for the judicial expense fund in civil suits and criminal cases in the Fourth Judicial District Court (JDC) from \$15 to \$35.

Present law establishes the judicial expense fund for the Fourth JDC for expenses related to the proper administration or function of the court or the offices of the individual judges.

Present law requires that the judges of the Fourth JDC, sitting en banc, determine a sum not to exceed \$15 to be collected from a person filing a civil suit or proceeding and from any defendant who is convicted, pleads guilty, or forfeits his bond in a criminal case. Further requires that fees and court costs collected be placed in a separate account to be designated as the judicial expense fund for the Fourth JDC.

Proposed law increases the maximum sum collected in both civil suits or proceedings and in criminal cases from \$15 to \$35.

(Amends R.S. 13:996.42(A))