

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

16 * * *

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 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Edmonston

Abstract: Provides relative to costs and fees in maintaining or defending 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 to provide for a reasonable attorney fee and to specify that evaluation fees be court approved. Otherwise retains present law.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Modify present law to provide for a reasonable attorney fee and to specify that evaluation fees be court approved.
2. Remove the language that provides each party is responsible for attorney fees after the initial hearing.
3. Make technical changes.