
DIGEST

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Burrell

HB No. 1240

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to use a portion of certain monies collected pursuant to family support enforcement programs to fund fatherhood initiatives.

Present law authorizes the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to collect application and other fees from each individual who is receiving child support enforcement services from DCFS or any individual who owes a duty of support. Present law requires the fees to comply with any applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations and prohibits the fees from exceeding the maximum set by federal laws, rules, and regulations or the actual costs incurred by DCFS in providing the support services, whichever is less.

Proposed law retains present law and requires DCFS to dedicate 15% of the application and other fees collected to the administration of family support programs designed to assist fathers who have custody of their children with the responsibilities of fatherhood or to encourage noncustodial fathers to have more participation in their children's lives. Nothing in proposed law shall be construed to limit DCFS from using monies from other sources authorized by law to fund such fatherhood initiatives.

Present law provides that a court may enter into a cooperative agreement with DCFS to collect court-ordered child support payments and administrative costs collected and distributed by the court. Present law authorizes DCFS to retain an amount equal to the actual costs incurred in collecting and distributing the child support, including administrative costs; however, such amount shall not exceed 1% of the total amount collected for the court.

Proposed law retains present law and requires DCFS to dedicate 15% of the amount retained to the administration of family support programs designed to assist fathers who have custody of their children with the responsibilities of fatherhood or to encourage noncustodial fathers to have more participation in their children's lives. Nothing in proposed law shall be construed to limit DCFS from using monies from other sources authorized by law to fund such fatherhood initiatives.

(Amends R.S. 46:236.1.2(I) and 236.11(B)(2))