

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 553

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

COURTS/COURT COSTS: Provides an increase in court costs relative to judicial commitment procedures

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 28:54(D)(2), relative to judicial commitment fees; to increase  
3 the maximum court costs for judicial commitment procedures when the costs are  
4 paid from funds appropriated to the judiciary; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 28:54(D)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §54. Judicial commitment; procedure

8 \* \* \*

9 D.

10 \* \* \*

11 (2) The respondent or his attorney shall have the right to seek an additional  
12 independent medical opinion, when necessary, in their discretion. If the respondent  
13 is indigent, this opinion may be paid for by the Mental Health Advocacy Service,  
14 upon the approval of its executive director. Reasonable compensation of the  
15 appointed examining physicians and all court costs shall be established by the court  
16 and ordered paid by respondent or petitioner in the discretion of the court. If it is  
17 determined by the court that the costs shall not be borne by the respondent or the  
18 petitioner, then compensation to the physicians and all court costs shall be paid from  
19 funds appropriated to the judiciary, but such court costs shall not exceed the sum of  
20 ~~seventy-five~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars.

21 \* \* \*

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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)]

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Havard

HB No. 553

**Abstract:** Increases the maximum court costs for judicial commitment procedures when the costs are not paid by the respondent or the petitioner, but are paid from funds appropriated to the judiciary.

Present law provides, in a judicial commitment procedure, that reasonable compensation of the appointed examining physicians and all court costs shall be established by the court and ordered paid by respondent or petitioner in the discretion of the court. Present law further provides that, if it is determined by the court that the costs shall not be borne by the respondent or the petitioner, the compensation to the physicians and all court costs shall be paid from funds appropriated to the judiciary, but such court costs shall not exceed the sum of \$75.

Proposed law retains present law but increases the maximum costs from \$75 to \$125.

(Amends R.S. 28:54(D)(2))