

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H2/22/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1420

5 By: Representative Bryant
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COURT SECURITY ACT; TO
9 ADDRESS COURTS THAT LACK PROPER SECURITY; TO CREATE
10 THE COURT SECURITY FEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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13 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COURT SECURITY
14 ACT; AND TO ADDRESS COURTS THAT LACK
15 PROPER SECURITY; TO CREATE THE COURT
16 SECURITY FEE.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 10, Subchapter 10, is
23 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 16-10-1007. Court security review – Court security fee.

25 (a) The administrative judge of a circuit court or a district court
26 judge responsible for the court facility may submit a request to the Director
27 of Security and Emergency Preparedness for a court security review which
28 shall consist of a comprehensive review of the current security measures of
29 that circuit court or district court, including all courtrooms, courthouses,
30 judges’ chambers, and administrative offices that are part of the circuit
31 court or district court, as applicable.

32 (b)(1) The Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness shall
33 review the security measures and shall promptly prepare a report detailing
34 any notable lack of security measures or areas where security may be present
35 but insufficient.

36 (2) The report shall also include recommendations for additional



1 security measures that would rectify any lack of or insufficient security
2 measures, as well as an estimated cost of establishing and maintaining those
3 additional security measures.

4 (c)(1) After the completion of the security review described under
5 subsection (b) of this section, the Director of Security and Emergency
6 Preparedness shall deliver a copy to the administrative judge of the circuit
7 court or the district court judge responsible for the court facility as well
8 as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and to the Chief
9 Justice of the Supreme Court for review.

10 (2) If the Director of the Administrative Office of the Court
11 and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court determine that the judge
12 requesting the security review has insufficient security measures the Chief
13 Justice may authorize the administrative judge of the circuit court or the
14 district court judge responsible for the court facility to begin assessing a
15 court security fee to subsidize and maintain additional security measures for
16 the administrative judge of the circuit court or the district court judge
17 responsible for the court facility.

18 (3) The court security fee authorized under this subsection
19 shall be reviewed by the Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness, the
20 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Chief Justice of
21 the Supreme Court periodically while it is implemented and may be modified or
22 deauthorized by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court when the
23 administrative judge of the circuit court or the district court judge
24 responsible for the court facility is able to maintain sufficient security
25 measures independent of the court security fee subsidy.

26 (d)(1) A court security fee under this section shall be assessed on
27 every conviction for a felony, misdemeanor, or violation in the circuit court
28 or district court, where applicable.

29 (2) The amount of the court security fee under this section
30 shall be set by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court upon review of an
31 initial recommendation by the administrative judge of a circuit court or the
32 district court judge responsible for the court facility, but shall not be
33 more than ten dollars (\$10.00) per conviction.

34 (3)(A)(i) The collecting officer of the court security fee under
35 this section shall remit the court security fees by the tenth of each month
36 to the treasurer of the administrative jurisdiction of the court.

