

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 402

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDWARDS AND MACK

COURTS: Relative to the 21st Judicial District Court's Judicial Expense Fund

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:996.7 and 996.8, relative to the judicial expense fund for the
3 Twenty-First Judicial District; to prohibit the allocation of funds from the Twenty-
4 First Judicial District's judicial expense fund for payment of salaries for personnel
5 or judges in the Twenty-Second Judicial District and other expenses; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:996.7 and 996.8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §996.7. Judicial expense fund; disbursements

11 The judges, en banc, of the Twenty-First Judicial District Court ~~and of the~~
12 ~~Twenty-Second Judicial District Court~~ may, in lieu of all or any part of the fees for
13 reporting and transcribing testimony authorized under the provisions of R.S.
14 13:961(F), or other applicable laws, and in addition to salaries otherwise provided,
15 authorized, or established by law, fix and pay each of their court reporters a salary
16 from the judicial expense fund. The judges, en banc, may further appoint such
17 secretarial, clerical, research, administrative, or other personnel as they deem
18 necessary to expedite the business and function of the court and fix and pay all or
19 any part of the salaries of such personnel out of the monies in the judicial expense
20 fund. In like manner, the judges, en banc, may utilize the monies in the judicial
21 expense fund to pay all or any part of the cost of establishing ~~and/or~~ or maintaining
22 a law library for the court, or for buying ~~and/or~~ or maintaining any type of

1 equipment, supplies, or other items consistent with or germane to the efficient
 2 operation of the court. In general, the judicial expense fund is established to or
 3 related to the proper administration or function of the ~~said~~ court of the office of the
 4 individual judges and is in addition to any and all other funds, salaries, expenses, or
 5 other monies that are not or hereafter provided, authorized, or established by law for
 6 any of the aforesaid purposes.

7 §996.8. Judges; prohibition against payment of salaries from judicial expense fund

8 No salary shall be paid from the Judicial Expense Fund for the Twenty-First
 9 Judicial District ~~or for the Twenty-Second Judicial District~~ to any of the judges of
 10 the Twenty-First Judicial District ~~or of the Twenty-Second Judicial District~~ except
 11 as may be paid for administering the ~~said~~ fund and then only after prior legislative
 12 approval.

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)]

Edwards

HB No. 402

Abstract: Prohibits the allocation of funds from the 21st Judicial District's judicial expense fund for use by the 22nd Judicial District.

Present law authorizes judges of the 21st and 22nd JDCs to fix and pay the salaries for their court reporters and court personnel out of the judicial expense fund for the 21st JDC.

Present law authorizes the judges to use the monies in the judicial expense fund to pay all or any part of the cost of establishing and maintaining a law library or for buying or maintaining any type of equipment or supplies or other items consistent with or germane to the operation of the court.

Proposed law retains present law but removes any reference to the 22nd JDC for access to the judicial expense fund.

Present law prohibits any salary from being paid out of the judicial expense fund for the 21st and 22nd JDC for any judges of the 21st or 22nd JDC, except for administering the fund with legislative approval.

Proposed law retains present law but removes any reference to the 22nd JDC for access to the judicial expense fund.

(Amends R.S. 13:996.7 and 996.8)