

SENATE BILL NO. 65

BY SENATOR MORRISH

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:985.2, relative to the Thirty-Eighth Judicial District; to provide for the
3 assessment of court costs to fund court reporter fees prepared for indigents; to
4 authorize additional costs in criminal cases; to authorize an additional filing fee in
5 civil cases; to create an indigent transcript fund for the payment of court reporter
6 fees; to provide terms and conditions for such funds; to authorize the clerk of court
7 to retain certain fees; to provide for rates of payment to court reporters; to provide
8 for an annual audit; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 13:985.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **§985.2. Thirty-Eighth Judicial District; indigent transcript fund**

12 **A.(1) The clerk of court for the Thirty-Eighth Judicial District Court**
13 **shall establish an indigent transcript fund for the deposit of all monies that may**
14 **be received under the provisions of this Section relative to the payment of court**
15 **reporter fees for transcripts prepared for indigents, except as provided in this**
16 **Subsection.**

17 **(2) All funds received and deposited shall be used and paid out as**
18 **follows:**

19 **(a) To compensate court reporters for the preparation of all transcripts**

1 arising from juvenile proceedings when the juvenile's parent or legal guardian
2 or the adult over whom the court is exercising juvenile jurisdiction is found to
3 be indigent in accordance with applicable provisions of the Louisiana Children's
4 Code, including Articles 320 and 321.

5 (b) To compensate court reporters for the preparation of all transcripts
6 of testimony in civil proceedings filed or ruled as pauper actions in accordance
7 with the applicable provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Articles 5181 et seq.

8 (c) To compensate criminal court reporters for the preparation of all
9 transcripts for indigent defendants, including trials, motions, felony guilty pleas,
10 hearings on writs, and all court proceedings.

11 (3) If funds are available at the end of the fiscal year, the clerk of court
12 may retain up to two thousand dollars from the fund as compensation for
13 administration of the fund.

14 B. Court reporters shall be paid from the fund for transcription in all
15 cases where the party is indigent or a pauper. The court reporters shall be paid
16 up to three dollars and fifty cents per thirty-two line page and paid twenty-five
17 cents per page for each copy, as funds become available, all such payments to
18 be made from the fund by the clerk of court. The amount paid for each thirty-
19 two line page shall be determined by the judge.

20 C. In all criminal cases over which the court has original, appellate,
21 supervisory, or concurrent jurisdiction, not to include traffic violations, there
22 shall be taxed as costs against every defendant who is convicted after trial or
23 after a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or who forfeits his bond a sum not to
24 exceed ten dollars, which shall be transmitted to the clerk of court for further
25 disposition in accordance with this Section.

26 D. In all civil cases, except actions filed in forma pauperis pursuant to
27 the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Articles 5181 et seq., there shall be
28 collected an additional filing fee not to exceed twenty dollars, which shall be
29 transmitted to the clerk of court for further disposition in accordance with this
30 Section.

1 **E. The clerk of court shall cause to be conducted annually an audit of**
2 **the fund and the books and accounts relating thereto in accordance with the**
3 **provisions of R.S. 24:513.**

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____