

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to public safety; providing funding for the public defender; establishing
1.3 a public defender fee for licensed attorneys; establishing a public defender fee
1.4 account in the special revenue fund.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **PUBLIC DEFENDER FEE; PUBLIC DEFENDER FEE ACCOUNT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Creation of fee.** The state court administrator, through the lawyer
1.8 registration office, may assess a public defender fee on each licensed attorney in the state.
1.9 The fee must be equal to or greater than the civil legal services fee that licensed attorneys
1.10 are required to pay pursuant to the rules of the supreme court on lawyer registration.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Creation of account.** A public defender fee account is created in the
1.12 special revenue fund. The public defender fee is deposited in the public defender fee
1.13 account in the special revenue fund. The amounts in the account are appropriated to the
1.14 Board of Public Defense.

1.15 Subd. 3. **Purpose of account.** The purpose of the public defender fee account is to
1.16 provide funding for the Board of Public Defense.

1.17 Subd. 4. **Prohibition on nonpublic defender transfers from account.**
1.18 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, money in the public defender fee account shall
1.19 be appropriated solely for the purpose of funding the Board of Public Defense.

1.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009.