

Courts—Judicial Surcharge; Collection of Court Debts; Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee and Distribution; HB 2041

HB 2041 amends law related to courts.

Judicial Surcharge; Collection of Court Debts

The bill extends the sunset provision for judicial surcharges on a number of docket fees until June 30, 2019.

The bill also makes technical corrections and reconciles amendments related to expungements made in the 2016 Session.

The bill amends law related to the collection of debts owed to courts. The bill requires the cost of collection of debts owed to courts or restitution be paid by the responsible party as an additional court cost in all cases where the party fails to pay any debts owed to courts or restitution and the court contracts with an agent to collect the debt or restitution.

Reinstatement Fees

The bill amends statutes regarding the reinstatement fee for failure to comply with a traffic citation and its distribution. Effective July 1, 2018, the bill increases the reinstatement fee for each charge from \$59 to \$100.

Effective July 1, 2018, the bill increases the percentage the Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund receives of these fees and lowers the percentage distributed to other funds while maintaining the amount distributed. Under previous law, the Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund received 15.30 percent of the fee amount, the Division of Vehicles received 42.40 percent, the Community Alcohol Fund received 31.80 percent, and the Juvenile Alternatives to Detention Fund received 10.59 percent. Under the bill, the Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund receives the first \$15 of such reinstatement fees. Of the remaining amount, the Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund receives 41.17 percent, the Division of Vehicles Operating Fund receives 29.41 percent, the Community Alcoholism and Intoxication Programs Fund receives 22.06 percent, and the Juvenile Alternatives to Detention Fund receives 7.36 percent.

The bill also amends the statute establishing the Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund to remove restrictions related to the Judicial Branch pay plan for nonjudicial personnel approved by the Chief Justice for FY 2015.