

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 612 (SB 120)

2016 Regular Session

Martiny

Prior law provided that the Ascension Parish Court judge shall receive an annual salary of not less than \$68,522, payable monthly on his own warrant by the state, the parish of Ascension, the municipalities within the parish of Ascension, and the judicial expense fund for the Parish Court for the Parish of Ascension, and apportioned according to prior law.

Prior law provided that in all criminal cases over which the court has jurisdiction, there shall be taxed as costs against every defendant who is convicted after trial or after a plea of guilty or who forfeits his bond, a sum determined by the judge of the parish court, which sum shall not exceed \$15, which shall be in addition to all other fines, costs or forfeitures lawfully imposed and which shall be transmitted to the clerk of court for further disposition in accordance herewith. Prior law further provided that any bench warrant fees collected by the court from a defendant shall also be transmitted to the clerk of court for further disposition.

Prior law also provided that the clerk of court shall place all sums collected or received from criminal bond forfeitures in a separate account to be designated as the Judicial Expense Fund for the Parish Court for the Parish of Ascension, which the judge has control over and responsibility for ensuring that the account is audited.

Prior law also provided that no salary shall be paid from the judicial expense fund to the judge, except the judge appointed temporarily under the provisions of R.S. 13:2563.9 and as provided in R.S. 13:2563.5(B)(5).

New law specified that the \$44,265 per annum paid by the state is subject to the increases mandated by R.S. 13:50. New law also changes Ascension Parish's payment requirement from \$7,110 per annum to an annual appropriation from the parish general fund and the Ascension Parish Judicial Expense Fund sufficient to fully fund the operations of the parish court, which shall include the salaries and benefits of the parish judge and the parish court's employees.

New law requires the bond forfeiture costs to be forwarded, on a monthly basis, to the chief financial officer of Ascension Parish, rather than the clerk of court, for deposit into the Judicial Expense Fund. New law further shifts control and oversight of the fund from the clerk of court to the parish chief financial officer.

New law also provides that no salary shall be paid from the judicial expense fund to the judge, except the judge appointed temporarily under the provisions of R.S. 13:2563.9 and as provided in R.S. 13:2563.5(B)(4) and (C).

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 17, 2016).

(Amends R.S. 13:2563.5(B) and 2563.17(A)-(C); adds R.S. 13:2563.5(C))