

CHAPTER 321

H.B. No. 476

An Act relating to the collection of certain probate court fees to be used for continuing judicial education for probate judges and their staffs or for supplemental compensation and expenses for the presiding judge of the statutory courts.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article 3930(b), Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Section 1A to read as follows:

Sec. 1A. (a) In addition to all other fees paid to the clerk in probate cases, a person shall pay a fee of \$3.00 for each original cause or action filed in a probate court. The fees shall be deposited in the general fund of the county to be used for the continuing education of the judge and staff of the probate courts, or for the contribution of the county to fund the compensation required by Section 3A, Chapter 781, Acts of the 68th Legislature, Regular Session, 1983 (Article 1969b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), for the presiding judge of the statutory probate courts. The funds may be used for travel and related expenses to attend any of the continuing judicial education activities of any of the organizations accredited by the supreme court for continuing judicial education.

(b) If the fee prescribed by Subsection (a) of this section produces more revenue than is required for the purposes designated by that subsection, the commissioners court by order shall reduce the fee to an amount that will not produce more revenue than is required.

(c) A judge may not expend funds for continuing education without the approval of the commissioners court of the county. The judge of the court shall supply the commissioners court with an itemized receipt for such expenses.

(d) The county auditor shall audit the fees collected in the same manner as other fees collected by the county clerk or clerk of the county courts.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 2, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 17, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved: June 8, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985