

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARK. STAT. 17-456 TO AUTHORIZE QUORUM COURTS TO UTILIZE THE COURT COSTS AUTHORIZED BY ACT 695 OF 1983 TO COMPENSATE ATTORNEYS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT MINORS AND MENTALLY INCOMPETENT PERSONS IN CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Act 695 of 1983, the same being Arkansas Statute 17-456 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. The Quorum Court of any county included within the Judicial Districts of the State of Arkansas may be appropriate county legislation provide for the creation of a fund to be used for the sole purpose of paying reasonable and necessary costs incurred in the defense of indigent persons accused of criminal offenses and in the defense of indigent persons against whom involuntary commitment procedures for insanity or alcoholism, and for representation in civil and criminal matters of persons deemed incompetent by the court due to minority or mental incapacity, have been brought in any Circuit Courts, Chancery Courts, Probate Courts, or Municipal Courts within such county, including but not limited to investigative expenses, expert witness fees, and legal fees."

SECTION 2. In addition to all other authority granted by law, every Circuit Court and every Chancery Court is hereby authorized to appoint legal counsel to represent in civil and criminal actions persons the court deems incompetent due to minority or mental incapacity.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: February 27, 1987

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