

Act 692 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 692

HB1611

By: Representative Flanagin

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO EMPLOY AN INVESTIGATOR; TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSMENT BY THE COUNTY QUORUM COURT OF COURT COSTS TO FUND THE INVESTIGATOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (a) In any county having a public defender, the public defender may employ an investigator to help him in carrying out his duties.

(b) The quorum court in any such county may adopt an ordinance assessing additional court costs in order to provide funds for the payment of the said public defender's investigator, and the quorum court shall set the salary or the rate of pay for the investigator. The court cost shall be assessed upon each judgement of conviction, upon each plea of guilty, and upon each plea of nolo contendere or bond forfeiture in felony and misdemeanor cases in circuit courts, justice of the peace courts, municipal courts, police courts or city courts. The court cost shall not exceed the sum of four dollars (\$4.00).

(c) The investigator may be employed as an independent contractor or may be employed as an employee of the county at the discretion of the quorum court.

SECTION 2. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined that there is an immediate need for public defenders to employ an investigator and that this act assists the counties in providing for an investigator. This act being necessary for the public peace, health, and welfare, an emergency is declared to exist and this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: March 20, 1989

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