

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 315

5 By: Senator B. Ballinger
6 By: Representative Bryant
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COURT SECURITY ACT; TO
10 ADDRESS COURTS THAT LACK PROPER SECURITY; TO CREATE
11 THE COURT SECURITY FEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS COURT SECURITY
16 ACT; TO ADDRESS COURTS THAT LACK PROPER
17 SECURITY; TO CREATE THE COURT SECURITY
18 FEE.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 10, Subchapter 10, is
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 16-10-1007. Court security review – Court security fee.

26 (a) The administrative judge of a circuit court or a district court
27 judge responsible for the court facility may submit a request to the Director
28 of Security and Emergency Preparedness for a court security review which
29 shall consist of a comprehensive review of the current security measures of
30 that circuit court or district court, including all courtrooms, courthouses,
31 judges' chambers, and administrative offices that are part of the circuit
32 court or district court, as applicable.

33 (b)(1) The Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness shall
34 review the security measures and shall promptly prepare a report detailing
35 any notable lack of security measures or areas where security may be present
36 but insufficient.



1 (2) The report shall also include recommendations for additional
2 security measures that would rectify any lack of or insufficient security
3 measures, as well as an estimated cost of establishing and maintaining those
4 additional security measures.

5 (c)(1) After the completion of the security review described under
6 subsection (b) of this section, the Director of Security and Emergency
7 Preparedness shall deliver a copy to the administrative judge of the circuit
8 court or the district court judge responsible for the court facility as well
9 as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and to the Chief
10 Justice of the Supreme Court for review.

11 (2) If the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
12 and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court determine that the judge
13 requesting the security review has insufficient security measures the Chief
14 Justice may authorize the administrative judge of the circuit court or the
15 district court judge responsible for the court facility to begin assessing a
16 court security fee to subsidize and maintain additional security measures for
17 the administrative judge of the circuit court or the district court judge
18 responsible for the court facility.

19 (3) The court security fee authorized under this subsection
20 shall be reviewed by the Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness, the
21 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Chief Justice of
22 the Supreme Court periodically while it is implemented and may be modified or
23 deauthorized by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court when the
24 administrative judge of the circuit court or the district court judge
25 responsible for the court facility is able to maintain sufficient security
26 measures independent of the court security fee subsidy.

27 (d)(1) A court security fee under this section shall be assessed on
28 every conviction for a felony, misdemeanor, or violation in the circuit court
29 or district court, where applicable.

30 (2) The amount of the court security fee under this section
31 shall be set by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court upon review of an
32 initial recommendation by the administrative judge of a circuit court or the
33 district court judge responsible for the court facility, but shall not be
34 more than ten dollars (\$10.00) per conviction.

35 (3)(A)(i) The collecting officer of the court security fee under
36 this section shall remit the court security fees by the tenth of each month

1 to the treasurer of the administrative jurisdiction of the court.

2 (ii) The treasurer shall deposit the court security
3 fees into either the district court security fee fund or the circuit court
4 security fee fund depending on which court collected the court security fee.

5 (B)(i) The funds under this subsection shall be
6 appropriated by the governing body of the administrative jurisdiction of the
7 court.

8 (ii) Expenditures from the funds shall be approved
9 by the administrative judge of the court and shall be authorized and paid by
10 laws governing the payment of county or municipal claims.

11 (C) The court security fee shall be used solely for court
12 security measures identified in the court security report described under
13 subsection (b) of this section.

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