

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

Act 989 of the Regular Session

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State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/3/25 H4/9/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 575

By: Senator C. Tucker

By: Representative Dalby

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INSTALLMENT FEES COLLECTED IN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FEES; TO CREATE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FEE TASK FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INSTALLMENT FEES COLLECTED IN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FEES; AND TO CREATE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TASK FORCE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-65-119(a)(2), as amended by Acts 2025, No. 419, § 50, concerning the distribution of the driver's license reinstatement fee collected by the Office of Driver Services after a suspension for driving or boating while intoxicated or refusal to submit to a chemical test, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The fee under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be ~~distributed as follows:~~

~~(A) Seven percent (7%) of the revenues derived from this fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury as special revenues and credited to the Public Health Fund to be used exclusively for the Office of Alcohol Testing of the Department of Health;~~

~~(B) Thirty three percent (33%) of the revenues derived~~



~~from this fee shall be deposited as special revenues into the State Treasury into the Constitutional Officers Fund and the State Central Services Fund as a direct revenue to be used by the Office of Driver Services for use in supporting the administrative driver's licensing revocation and sanctions programs provided for in this subchapter;~~

~~(C) Ten percent (10%) of the revenues derived from this fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury, and the Treasurer of State shall credit them as general revenues to the various funds in the respective amounts to each and to be used for the purposes as provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.; and~~

~~(D) Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues derived from this fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury as special revenues to the credit of the Division of Arkansas State Police Fund deposited into the State Treasury and the Treasurer of State shall credit the amount as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-65-304(d)(3), concerning the driver privilege reinstatement fee collected by the Office of Driver Services after a suspension for underage driving or boating under the influence, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Forty percent (40%) of the revenues derived from the fee under this subsection shall be deposited into the State Treasury, ~~as special revenues and credited to the Public Health Fund to be used exclusively for the Blood Alcohol Program of the Department of Health~~ and the Treasurer of State shall credit the amount as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-65-310(f)(3), concerning the driving privilege reinstatement fee collected by the Office of Driver Services after a suspension for an underaged person for refusal to submit to a chemical test, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Forty percent (40%) of the revenues derived from the fee under this subsection shall be deposited into the State Treasury, ~~as special revenues and credited to the Public Health Fund to be used exclusively for~~

~~the Blood Alcohol Program of the Department of Health and the Treasurer of State shall credit the amount as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-13-704(b)(2)(A)(i), as amended by Acts 2025, No. 371, concerning the installment fee collected in circuit court, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the installment fee collected in circuit court shall be remitted by the tenth day of each month ~~to the Administration of Justice Funds Section of the Office of Administrative Services of the Department of Finance and Administration, on a form provided by the Office of Administrative Services, for deposit into the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund established by § 16-13-712~~ into the State Treasury, and the Treasurer of State shall credit that portion of the installment fee as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 16-13-704(b)(3)(A), as amended by Acts 2025, No. 371, concerning the installment fee collected in district court, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the installment fee collected in district court shall be remitted by the tenth day of each month ~~to the Administration of Justice Funds Section, on a form provided by that section, for deposit into the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund established by § 16-13-712~~ into the State Treasury as general revenue and the Treasurer of State shall credit that portion of the installment fee to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 16-13-704(b)(3)(E)(ii), as amended by Acts 2025, No. 371, concerning the additional installment fee collected in district court, is amended to read as follows:

(ii) In district court only, an installment fee of an additional five dollars (\$5.00) per month shall also be assessed on the

first day of each month on each person who is ordered to pay a fine on an installment basis with the additional five dollars (\$5.00) to be remitted by the tenth day of each month ~~to the Administration of Justice Funds Section on a form provided by that section for deposit into the State Administration of Justice Fund~~ into the State Treasury, and the Treasurer of State shall credit the additional installment fee as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(120), concerning the classification of revenue from certain driver's license reinstatement fees as special revenue, is repealed.

~~*(120) That portion of driver's license reinstatement fees for the Office of Driver Services, § 5-65-119(a)(2)(B);*~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(155), concerning the classification of revenue from certain driver's license reinstatement fees as special revenue, is repealed.

~~*(155) That portion of driver's license reinstatement fees for the Office of Alcohol Testing, § 5-65-119(a)(2)(A), § 5-65-304(d), and § 5-65-310(f);*~~

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(218), concerning the classification of revenue from certain driver's license reinstatement fees as special revenue, is repealed.

~~*(218) That portion of an operator's driver's license reinstatement fees, § 5-65-119(a)(2)(D);*~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(219), concerning the classification of revenue from certain driver's license reinstatement fees as special revenue, is repealed.

~~*(219) That portion of suspended, revoked, or cancelled driver's license reinstatement fees, § 27-16-508(c) and § 27-16-808(b)(2);*~~

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 21-6-416(b) and (c), concerning the court technology fee, as amended by Acts 2025, No. 371, § 13, are amended to read

as follows:

(b) The court technology fee is as follows:

(1) For all civil actions and misdemeanors filed in either the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals..... \$15.00

(2) For initiating a cause of action in the civil, domestic relations, or probate division of circuit court, including appeals..... 15.00

(3) For initiating a cause of action in the civil or small claims division of district court..... 15.00

~~(4) For all criminal and traffic cases, from each defendant upon 24 each conviction, each plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or each bond 25 forfeiture..... 15.00.~~

(c)(1) The fee provided under subdivision (b)(1) of this section collected in the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals shall be remitted by the Clerk of the Supreme Court on or before the fifteenth day of each month to the Administration of Justice Funds Section on a form provided by the Office of Administrative Services for deposit into the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund established by § 16-13-712.

(2) The fee provided under subdivisions ~~(b)(2)-(4)~~ (b)(2) and (3) of this section collected in circuit court or district court shall be remitted by the county or city official, agency, or department designated under § 16-13-709 as primarily responsible for the collection of fines assessed in circuit court or district court on or before the fifteenth day of each month to the section, on a form provided by the office, for deposit into the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund established by § 16-13-712.

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 27-16-508(b), concerning the driver's license reinstatement fee collected by the Office of Driver Services, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The revenues derived from this fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury, ~~as special revenues to the credit of the Division of Arkansas State Police Fund and the Treasurer of State shall credit these revenues as~~ general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 27-16-808(b), concerning the driver's license reinstatement fee collected by the Office of Driver Services, is amended to read as follows:

(b) All proceeds remitted to the Office of Driver Services under this section shall be deposited ~~as follows:~~

~~(1) Twenty five percent (25%) to the State Police Retirement Fund; and~~

~~(2) Seventy five percent (75%) to the State Treasury as special revenues to the credit of the Division of Arkansas State Police Fund into the State Treasury, and the Treasurer of State shall credit these proceeds as general revenue to the various funds in the respective amounts to each to be used for the purposes provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law, § 19-5-101 et seq.~~

SECTION 14. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. Justice System Fee Task Force – Findings – Intent – Creation – Membership – Duties.

(a)(1) The General Assembly finds that:

(A) The justice system in Arkansas imposes an excessive number of fees on individuals charged with or convicted of crimes or otherwise involved in the justice system;

(B) The collective impact of these fees on the individuals they are imposed upon substantially inhibits their ability to move forward with their lives in a constructive manner;

(C) Many of the fees in the justice system no longer serve a productive purpose; and

(D) Altering the structure of or eliminating many of the fees in the justice system would serve the people of Arkansas by reducing recidivism and therefore improving public safety.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

(A) Implement safe policy changes that will improve the effectiveness of the fees in the justice system in a manner that will:

(i) Reduce recidivism;

(ii) Lower crime across the state; and

(iii) Enhance the ability of individuals charged with or convicted of crimes to turn their lives around; and

(B) Establish the Justice System Fee Task Force as a

mechanism to study the fees in the justice system and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the possible alteration or elimination of those fees.

(b)(1) There is created the Justice System Fee Task Force.

(2) The task force shall consist of the following thirteen (13) members:

(A) Two (2) members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(i) One (1) member who is a representative of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission; and

(ii) One (1) member who is a prosecuting attorney;

(B) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(C) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(D) Two (2) members who are staff members of the Administrative Office of the Courts appointed by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts;

(E) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections or his or her designee;

(F) One (1) circuit court judge appointed by the President of the Judicial Council;

(G) One (1) district court judge appointed by the President of the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc.;

(H) One (1) member designated by the Association of Arkansas Counties; and

(I) One (1) member designated by the Arkansas Municipal League.

(3) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(4)(A) The Senate members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate under subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section shall call the first meeting of the task force no later than August 31, 2025.

(B) At the first meeting of the task force, the members of the task force shall elect from their membership a chair and other officers as needed for the transaction of the business of the task force.

(C) The task force shall meet at least quarterly and shall

meet:

(i) At the call of the chair; or

(ii) Upon the calling of a meeting by a majority of the members of the task force.

(5) The task force shall meet at the State Capitol Building or in the legislative committee rooms in the Multi-Agency Complex on the State Capitol grounds.

(6) The task force shall adopt rules and procedures for conducting its business.

(7) Six (6) members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

(c) The task force shall study and recommend improvements to the justice system fees in the State of Arkansas.

(d) As part of its study under subsection (c) of this section, the task force shall:

(1) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of each fee in the Arkansas justice system, including without limitation:

(A) The amount of each fee;

(B) The purpose of each fee;

(C) The amount of revenue generated by each fee;

(D) The programs funded by the revenue generated by each fee; and

(E) The efficacy of each fee;

(2) Examine the effectiveness of current practices of imposing justice system fees on individuals in Arkansas; and

(3) Develop recommendations for the General Assembly for improving the system of imposing justice system fees on individuals.

(e)(1) On or before December 1, 2026, the task force shall submit its final report to the:

(A) Legislative Council;

(B) Governor; and

(C) Supreme Court.

(2) The final report shall include the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations, including without limitation:

(A) Recommendations for improving the system of imposing fees on individuals in the justice system; and

(B) The funding necessary to accommodate each recommendation made under subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section.

(f) The task force expires on December 31, 2026.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 1 through 13 of this act are effective on July 1, 2026.

/s/C. Tucker

APPROVED: 4/22/25