

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

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 384

By: Senator E. Williams

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIFORM FILING FEE FOR
INITIATING A CAUSE OF ACTION IN CIRCUIT COURT; TO
PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR TRANSITIONAL REENTRY CENTERS; TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE UNIFORM FILING FEE FOR
INITIATING A CAUSE OF ACTION IN CIRCUIT
COURT; TO PROVIDE FOR TRANSITIONAL
REENTRY CENTERS; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Title 12, Chapter 27, is amended to add a new section to read as follows:

12-27-144. Support for Department of Community Correction Transitional Reentry Centers.

(a) Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of the uniform filing fee collected in circuit court under § 21-6-403(b)(1) shall be deposited into the Best Practices Fund, § 19-5-1139, to support transitional reentry centers.

(b) Funding under subsection (a) of this section is in addition to all other sources of funding for the Department of Community Correction and shall not be used to supplant any other source of funding for the department.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-10-314 is repealed.

~~16-10-314. Support for Arkansas publicly funded law schools.~~



~~(a) Notwithstanding §§ 16-10-306, 16-10-307, 16-10-603, 16-10-604, and 19-5-993 or any other law to the contrary, fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of the uniform filing fee collected in circuit court under § 21-6-403(b)(1) shall be deposited as follows:~~

~~(1) Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues shall be deposited into the State Treasury as special revenues to the credit of the University of Arkansas Fund, there to be used for the support of the University of Arkansas School of Law; and~~

~~(2) Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues shall be deposited into the State Treasury as special revenues to the credit of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Fund, there to be used for the support of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law.~~

~~(b) These moneys shall be in addition to all other sources of funding for the law schools and shall not be used to supplant any other source of funding for the law schools.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1139 is amended to read as follows:

19-5-1139. Best Practices Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a trust fund to be known as the "Best Practices Fund".

(b) The Best Practices Fund may consist of the proceeds from the payment of parole or probation supervision fees under § 16-93-104(a) and the portion of the uniform filing fees under § 21-6-403(b)(1) authorized by § 12-27-144.

(c)(1) Expenditures from the Best Practices Fund shall be used to establish and maintain programs and services that implement practices that are proven to reduce the risk of having repeat offenders or recidivism, including programs that address treatment needs of offenders and transitional reentry centers established by the Department of Community Correction.

(2) Programs funded by the Best Practices Fund, whether provided by the Department of Community Correction or another state agency or contracted with a private vendor, shall meet criteria promulgated in Department of Community Correction rules that establish evidence-based practices.

(3)(A) The funds deposited into the Best Practices Fund

supplement and do not replace the state and local resources that are currently directed toward offender rehabilitation programs through the Department of Community Correction, the Department of Human Services, or any other state agency.

(B) An expenditure from the General Revenue Fund Account of the State Apportionment Fund or the Community Correction Revolving Fund shall not be reduced based on the availability of funds in the Best Practices Fund.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(229), concerning special revenue derived from uniform filing fees collected in circuit court, is amended to read as follows:

(229) That portion of uniform filing fees collected in circuit court under ~~§ 16-10-314~~ and § 21-6-403(b)(1) as authorized by § 12-27-144;

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that this act will decrease the special revenues collected for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law; that this decrease in revenue will need to be accounted for by the respective law schools before the start of the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2015; and that without an emergency clause, this act will not become effective until after the start of the next fiscal year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.