

HB245 INTRODUCED



1 7G8IV2-1

2 By Representatives Standridge, Shedd (N & P)

3 RFD: Local Legislation

4 First Read: 04-Apr-23

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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Blount County; to provide for a new court cost to fund payments to employees of the sheriff's office who perform hazardous duties; and conditioning operation on voter approval at a referendum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) Immediately upon approval by a majority of the voting qualified electors of Blount County, in addition to any other court costs authorized in Blount County, there shall be taxed a fee as follows:

(1) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) in each civil case filed in any court, except for the small claims division of the district court.

(2) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) in all misdemeanor and felony criminal cases, including traffic offenses, upon conviction.

(3) Ten dollars (\$10) for each case filed in the small claims division of the district court.

(b) This fee shall not be waived by any court unless all other fees, assessments, costs, fines, and charges associated with the case are waived.



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29 (c) The fee collected pursuant to this section by the
30 clerk of each court shall be paid into a special fund
31 designated by the Blount County Commission as the Sheriff's
32 Department Hazardous Duty Fund, and shall be earmarked for
33 hazardous duty payment to the nonclerical employees of the
34 sheriff's office, excluding the sheriff, who perform hazardous
35 duties.

36 (d) (1) No earlier than October 1, 2024, the sheriff
37 shall certify to the county commission each employee who has
38 engaged in hazardous duty, and an amount sufficient to pay an
39 equal amount to each employee shall be disbursed from the
40 Hazardous Duty Fund.

41 (2) At any time after the first disbursement of
42 hazardous duty pay by the county commission, the commission
43 and the sheriff may make hazardous duty payments annually, or
44 may determine to make such payments at semi-annual, quarterly,
45 or monthly intervals as they agree circumstances warrant.

46 Section 2. Section 1 of this act shall become operative
47 only if approved by a majority of the qualified electors of
48 Blount County who vote in an election to be held on the day
49 designated by the Judge of Probate of Blount County. The
50 notice of the election shall be given by the judge of probate,
51 and the election shall be held, conducted, and the results
52 canvassed in the same manner as other county elections. The
53 election shall be held in conjunction with the next regularly
54 scheduled election to be held in the county. The question
55 shall be, "Do you favor the adoption of Act No. ____, of the
56 2023 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, to provide



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57 hazardous duty pay to the nonclerical employees of the Blount
58 County Sheriff's Office, excluding the Sheriff, by issuing a
59 new court cost in Blount County of no more than twenty-five
60 dollars (\$25)? Yes () No ()." The county shall pay any costs
61 and expenses not otherwise reimbursed by a governmental agency
62 which are incidental to the election. If a majority of the
63 votes cast in the election are "Yes," Section 1 of this act
64 shall become operative immediately. If the majority of the
65 votes are "No," this act shall be repealed and shall have no
66 further effect. The Judge of Probate of Blount County shall
67 certify the results of the election to the Secretary of State.

68 Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately
69 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its
70 otherwise becoming law.