

**SB182 INTRODUCED**



1 SB182  
2 NR6QUJJ-1  
3 By Senator Coleman  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 Under existing law, the funds from the Advanced  
6     Technology and Data Exchange Fund may only be used for  
7     specific purposes related to the administration of  
8     justice.

9                 This bill would allow the Administrative Office  
10    of Courts to expend funds from the Advanced Technology  
11    and Data Exchange Fund for the general operation of the  
12    courts.

13                 This bill would also create the Supreme Court  
14    Advanced Technology and Data Exchange Fund, the Court  
15    of Civil Appeals Advanced Technology and Data Exchange  
16    Fund, and the Court of Criminal Appeals Advanced  
17    Technology and Data Exchange Fund and provide for the  
18    administration of those funds.

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21                     A BILL

22                     TO BE ENTITLED

23                     AN ACT

24

25                 Relating to the Advanced Technology and Data Exchange  
26     Fund; to amend Section 12-19-290, Code of Alabama 1975, to  
27     further provide for the expenditure of funds from the Advanced  
28     Technology and Data Exchange Fund; and to create the Supreme

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29 Court Advanced Technology and Data Exchange Fund, the Court of  
30 Civil Appeals Advanced Technology and Data Exchange Fund, and  
31 the Court of Criminal Appeals Advanced Technology and Data  
32 Exchange Fund.

33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

34 Section 1. Section 12-19-290, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
35 amended to read as follows:

36 "§12-19-290

37 (a) The Administrative Office of Courts Advanced  
38 Technology and Data Exchange Fund is created in the State  
39 Treasury.

40 (b) The fund shall consist of all monies paid into the  
41 State Treasury to the credit of the fund pursuant to Section  
42 12-19-181 or by legislative appropriations, grant, gift, or  
43 otherwise.

44 (c) Monies contained in the Advanced Technology and  
45 Data Exchange Fund fund may be expended to provide for any  
46 activities involving the administration of justice, including,  
47 but not limited to, the following purposes:

48 (1) Expand methods and means for collection and  
49 disbursement of court-ordered monies through the use of credit  
50 cards, electronic fund transfers, or other means and provide  
51 for electronic transfer of records and storage.

52 (2) Enhance coordination and sharing of data with  
53 local, state, and federal agencies, members of the bar, and  
54 the public.

55 (3) Provide equipment for electronically filing cases.

56 (4) Improve accountability for case filings and



57 dispositions.

58 (5) Train and educate employees and officials on the  
59 state and municipal levels of the Unified Judicial System  
60 regarding legal and administrative policies and procedures and  
61 effective usage of the courts' management systems.

62 (6) Provide education materials including, but not  
63 limited to, manuals, forms, handbooks, books, brochures, and  
64 technology for legal research and case management for court  
65 officials and employees and component groups of the legal  
66 community.

67 (7) Provide staff, services, and equipment required to  
68 maintain and expand technological improvements and conduct  
69 continuing education and training in these areas.

70 (8) Provide for any other use by the Administrative  
71 Office of Courts, as determined by the Administrative Director  
72 of Courts, for the general operation of the courts in the  
73 state.

74 ~~(8)~~(9)a. Pay service charges, electronic transfer fees,  
75 or any other transaction costs associated with subdivisions

76 (1) to ~~(7)~~(8), inclusive.

77 b. All such costs shall be paid out of funds  
78 appropriated to the Administrative Office of Courts Advanced  
79 Technology and Data Exchange Fund and shall not reduce amounts  
80 due to be distributed to other governmental funds or entities.

81 (d) (1) Subject to the adoption of uniform rules by the  
82 Administrative Office of Courts, the clerks of the circuit and  
83 district courts may accept credit cards, charge cards, or  
84 debit cards issued from any bank, foreign lender, domestic



85      lender, or credit card bank as defined in Section 5-20-3 for  
86      the payment of court costs, fees, fines, forfeitures,  
87      judgments, restitution, attorney fees, any monies collected  
88      and payable to individuals, businesses or partnerships, or any  
89      person or entity or assessments of any kind. Any other  
90      provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the clerk of  
91      the court or agent thereof accepting payment as provided for  
92      in this subsection shall impose and collect a surcharge or  
93      convenience fee in respect of payments made by credit card,  
94      charge card, or debit card for any of the above in an amount  
95      not exceeding the sum of the following:—

96            a. ~~the~~The transaction fee or discount charged by the  
97      credit card, charge card, or debit card issuer or processor  
98      with respect to such payments~~; and~~.

99            b. ~~any~~Any cost or fee charged with respect to the  
100     payments pursuant to agreement between the Administrative  
101     Office of Courts and a contracting entity which provides  
102     software, support, and management services in connection with  
103     the acceptance of payment by credit card, charge card, or  
104     debit card by the clerks of the circuit and district courts as  
105     provided herein.

106            (2) The imposition and validity of any surcharges or  
107     convenience fees heretofore charged and collected by clerks of  
108     the circuit or district courts or their agents prior to June  
109     1, 2014, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

110            (e) The Administrative Director of Courts or any  
111     municipality may contract with any company that issues credit  
112     cards to collect and seize credit cards issued by any company



113 that are outdated or otherwise unauthorized. The state or  
114 municipality may charge the company a fee for the return of  
115 the credit cards. Any fees collected pursuant to this  
116 subsection by state courts shall be deposited into the  
117 Advanced Technology and Data Exchange Fund and the fees  
118 collected by a municipal court shall be deposited into the  
119 general fund of the municipality.

120 (f) Procedures for implementing the provisions of Act  
121 99-427 may be ~~promulgated~~adopted as Rules of Judicial  
122 Administration adopted by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

123 (g) At the end of any fiscal year, any unexpended or  
124 unencumbered monies contributed to or deposited in the fund  
125 from any source, except appropriations from other state funds,  
126 shall remain in the fund.

127 (h) The clerk of any court shall not be liable to any  
128 person for any action taken pursuant to this section if he or  
129 she acts in accordance with the rules adopted by the  
130 Administrative Office of Courts."

131 Section 2. (a) The Supreme Court Advanced Technology  
132 and Data Exchange Fund is created in the State Treasury.

133 (b) The fund shall consist of all monies paid into the  
134 State Treasury to the credit of the fund through user fees,  
135 copy fees, subscriptions, service charges, and any other  
136 sources associated with the operation of the appellate court  
137 case management system or by the legislative appropriations,  
138 grant, gift, or otherwise.

139 (c) Monies contained in the fund may be expended by the  
140 Supreme Court of Alabama to provide for any activities

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141 involving the administration of justice including the  
142 following purposes:

143 (1) Expand methods and means for collection and  
144 disbursement of court-ordered monies through the use of credit  
145 cards, electronic funds transfers, or other means and provide  
146 for electronic transfer of records and storage.

147 (2) Enhance coordination and sharing of data with  
148 local, state, and federal agencies, members of the bar, and  
149 the public.

150 (3) Provide equipment for electronically filing cases.

151 (4) Improve accountability for case filings and  
152 dispositions.

153 (5) Train and educate employees and officials on the  
154 trial or appellate levels of the Unified Judicial System  
155 regarding legal and administrative policies and procedures and  
156 effective usage of the courts' management systems.

157 (6) Provide education materials including manuals,  
158 forms, handbooks, books, brochures, and technology for legal  
159 research and case management for appellate and trial court  
160 officials and employees and component groups of the legal  
161 community.

162 (7) Provide staff, services, and equipment required to  
163 maintain and expand technological improvements and conduct  
164 continuing education and training in these areas.

165 (8) Provide for any other use by the Supreme Court of  
166 Alabama for the general operations that further the  
167 administration of justice.

168 (9) Pay service charges, electronic transfer fees, or



169 any other transaction costs associated with subdivisions (1)  
170 to (8), inclusive.

171 (d) The Administrative Office of Courts is authorized  
172 to transfer to the Supreme Court Advanced Technology and Data  
173 Exchange Fund established by subsection (a) any amounts on  
174 deposit in the Administrative Office of Courts Advanced  
175 Technology Data and Exchange Fund to the credit of the Supreme  
176 Court of Alabama.

177 (e) At the end of any fiscal year, any unexpended or  
178 unencumbered monies contributed to or deposited in the fund  
179 from any source shall remain in the fund for the use of the  
180 Supreme Court of Alabama.

181 (f) All monies in the fund shall be budgeted and  
182 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance  
183 with Article 4 of Chapter 4 and Chapter 19 of Title 41, Code  
184 of Alabama 1975, and only in the amount provided by the  
185 Legislature in the general appropriations act or other  
186 appropriations act.

187 Section 3. (a) The Court of Civil Appeals Advanced  
188 Technology and Data Exchange Fund is created in the State  
189 Treasury.

190 (b) The fund shall consist of all monies paid into the  
191 State Treasury to the credit of the fund through user fees,  
192 copy fees, subscriptions, service charges, and any other  
193 sources associated with the operation of the appellate court  
194 case management system or by the legislative appropriations,  
195 grant, gift, or otherwise.

196 (c) Monies contained in the fund may be expended by the

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197 Alabama Court of Civil Appeals to provide for any activities  
198 involving the administration of justice including the  
199 following purposes:

200 (1) Expand methods and means for collection and  
201 disbursement of court-ordered monies through the use of credit  
202 cards, electronic funds transfers, or other means and provide  
203 for electronic transfer of records and storage.

204 (2) Enhance coordination and sharing of data with  
205 local, state, and federal agencies, members of the bar, and  
206 the public.

207 (3) Provide equipment for electronically filing cases.

208 (4) Improve accountability for case filings and  
209 dispositions.

210 (5) Train and educate employees and officials on the  
211 trial or appellate levels of the Unified Judicial System  
212 regarding legal and administrative policies and procedures and  
213 effective usage of the courts' management systems.

214 (6) Provide education materials including manuals,  
215 forms, handbooks, books, brochures, and technology for legal  
216 research and case management for appellate and trial court  
217 officials and employees and component groups of the legal  
218 community.

219 (7) Provide staff, services, and equipment required to  
220 maintain and expand technological improvements and conduct  
221 continuing education and training in these areas.

222 (8) Provide for any other use by the Alabama Court of  
223 Civil Appeals for the general operations that further the  
224 administration of justice.



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(9) Pay service charges, electronic transfer fees, or  
any other transaction costs associated with subdivisions (1)  
to (8), inclusive.

228 (d) The Administrative Office of Courts is authorized  
229 to transfer to the Court of Civil Appeals Advanced Technology  
230 and Data Exchange Fund established by subsection (a) any  
231 amounts on deposit in the Administrative Office of Courts  
232 Advanced Technology Data and Exchange Fund to the credit of  
233 the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

234 (e) At the end of any fiscal year, any unexpended or  
235 unencumbered monies contributed to or deposited in the fund  
236 from any source shall remain in the fund for the use of the  
237 Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

238 (f) All monies in the fund shall be budgeted and  
239 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance  
240 with Article 4 of Chapter 4 and Chapter 19 of Title 41, Code  
241 of Alabama 1975, and only in the amount provided by the  
242 Legislature in the general appropriations act or other  
243 appropriations act.

247 (b) The fund shall consist of all monies paid into the  
248 State Treasury to the credit of the fund through user fees,  
249 copy fees, subscriptions, service charges, and any other  
250 sources associated with the operation of the appellate court  
251 case management system or by the legislative appropriations,  
252 grant, gift, or otherwise.



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253 (c) Monies contained in the fund may be expended by the  
254 Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to provide for any  
255 activities involving the administration of justice including  
256 the following purposes:

257 (1) Expand methods and means for collection and  
258 disbursement of court-ordered monies through the use of credit  
259 cards, electronic funds transfers, or other means and provide  
260 for electronic transfer of records and storage.

261 (2) Enhance coordination and sharing of data with  
262 local, state, and federal agencies, members of the bar, and  
263 the public.

264 (3) Provide equipment for electronically filing cases.

265 (4) Improve accountability for case filings and  
266 dispositions.

267 (5) Train and educate employees and officials on the  
268 trial or appellate levels of the Unified Judicial System  
269 regarding legal and administrative policies and procedures and  
270 effective usage of the courts' management systems.

271 (6) Provide education materials including manuals,  
272 forms, handbooks, books, brochures, and technology for legal  
273 research and case management for appellate and trial court  
274 officials and employees and component groups of the legal  
275 community.

279 (8) Provide for any other use by the Alabama Court of  
280 Criminal Appeals for the general operations that further the

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281 administration of justice.

282 (9) Pay service charges, electronic transfer fees, or  
283 any other transaction costs associated with subdivisions (1)  
284 to (8), inclusive.

285 (d) The Administrative Office of Courts is authorized  
286 to transfer to the Court of Criminal Appeals Advanced  
287 Technology and Data Exchange Fund established by subsection  
288 (a) any amounts on deposit in the Administrative Office of  
289 Courts Advanced Technology Data and Exchange Fund to the  
290 credit of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

291 (e) At the end of any fiscal year, any unexpended or  
292 unencumbered monies contributed to or deposited in the fund  
293 from any source shall remain in the fund for the use of the  
294 Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

295 (f) All monies in the fund shall be budgeted and  
296 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance  
297 with Article 4 of Chapter 4 and Chapter 19 of Title 41, Code  
298 of Alabama 1975, and only in the amount provided by the  
299 Legislature in the general appropriations act or other  
300 appropriations act.

301 Section 5. This act shall become effective on June 1,  
302 2026.