

1 HB316
2 216806-1
3 By Representatives Givan, Moore (M), Alexander, Rogers,
4 Coleman, Scott, South, Treadaway, Faulkner, Drake, Hollis
5 and Garrett
6 RFD: State Government
7 First Read: 08-FEB-22

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there are no guidelines for municipalities regarding the handling of court costs, fees, and fines in municipal courts.

This bill provides that the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, in consultation with the Administrative Office of Courts, shall prescribe minimum guidelines for the handling of court costs, fees, and fines in municipal courts.

This bill would also establish penalties for violations.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to municipal courts; to provide minimum guidelines for the handling of court costs, fees, and fines in municipal courts, and provide for penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. (a) The Department of Examiners of Public
2 Accounts, in consultation with the Administrative Office of
3 Courts, shall prescribe minimum guidelines for the handling of
4 court costs, fees, and fines in municipal courts.

5 (b) The guidelines shall include, at a minimum, that
6 municipal courts may not accept cash for payments of court
7 costs, fees, and fines, and that municipal courts shall
8 provide a receipt for any payments made towards court costs,
9 fees, and fines.

10 (c) (1) Each municipal court shall annually certify
11 to the Administrative Office of Courts that it is in
12 compliance with this section.

13 (2) The Administrative Office of Courts shall levy a
14 civil penalty of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) to any
15 municipal court who fails or willfully refuses to comply with
16 the guidelines established pursuant to this section. Penalties
17 imposed and collected under this section shall be paid into
18 the State General Fund.

19 Section 2. This act shall become effective
20 immediately following its passage and approval by the
21 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.