

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 830

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LIPKE.

1854L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 479.260, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to assessing costs in cases which are dismissed prior to a plea or finding of guilt.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 479.260, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 479.260 and 488.5032, to read as follows:

479.260. 1. Municipalities by ordinance may provide for fees in an amount per case to be set pursuant to sections 488.010 to 488.020, RSMo, for each municipal ordinance violation case filed before a municipal judge, and in the event a defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty, the judge may assess costs against the defendant except in those cases where the defendant is found by the judge to be indigent and unable to pay the costs. **In the event the case is dismissed before the defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty, the municipal judge may assess municipal court costs as determined by section 488.012, RSMo, against the defendant if the defendant consents to paying the costs except in those cases where the defendant is found by the judge to be indigent and unable to pay the costs.** The fees authorized in this subsection are in addition to service charges, witness fees and jail costs that may otherwise be authorized to be assessed, but are in lieu of other court costs. The fees provided by this subsection shall be collected by the municipal division clerk in municipalities electing or required to have violations of municipal ordinances tried before a municipal judge pursuant to section 479.020, or to employ judicial personnel pursuant to section 479.060, and disbursed as provided in subsection 1 of section 479.080. Any other court costs required in connection with such cases shall be collected and disbursed as provided in sections 488.010 to 488.020, RSMo; provided that, each municipal court may establish a judicial education fund in an account under

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 the control of the municipal court to retain one dollar of the fees collected on each case and to
19 use the fund only to pay for:

20 (1) The continuing education and certification required of the municipal judges by law
21 or supreme court rule; and

22 (2) Judicial education and training for the court administrator and clerks of the municipal
23 court.

24

25 Provided further, that no municipal court shall retain more than one thousand five hundred
26 dollars in the fund for each judge, administrator or clerk of the municipal court. Any excess
27 funds shall be transmitted quarterly to the general revenue fund of the county or municipal
28 treasury.

29 2. In municipal ordinance violation cases which are filed in the associate circuit division
30 of the circuit court, fees shall be assessed in each case in an amount to be set pursuant to sections
31 488.010 to 488.020, RSMo. In the event a defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty, the judge
32 shall assess costs against the defendant except in those cases where the defendant is found by the
33 judge to be indigent and unable to pay the costs. In the event a defendant is acquitted or the case
34 is dismissed, the judge shall not assess costs against the municipality. The costs authorized in
35 this subsection are in addition to service charges, witness fees and jail costs that may otherwise
36 be authorized to be assessed, but are in lieu of other court costs. The costs provided by this
37 subsection shall be collected by the municipal division clerk in municipalities electing or
38 required to have violations of municipal ordinances tried before a municipal judge pursuant to
39 section 479.020, or to employ judicial personnel pursuant to section 479.060, and disbursed as
40 provided in subsection 2 of section 479.080. Any other court costs required in connection with
41 such cases shall be collected and disbursed as provided in sections 488.010 to 488.020, RSMo.

42 3. A municipality, when filing cases before an associate circuit judge, shall not be
43 required to pay fees.

44 4. No fees for a judge, city attorney or prosecutor shall be assessed as costs in a
45 municipal ordinance violation case.

46 5. In municipal ordinance violation cases, when there is an application for a trial de
47 novo, there shall be an additional fee in an amount to be set pursuant to sections 488.010 to
48 488.020, RSMo, which shall be assessed in the same manner as provided in subsection 2 of this
49 section.

50 6. Municipalities by ordinance may provide for a schedule of costs to be paid in
51 connection with pleas of guilty which are processed in a traffic violations bureau. If a
52 municipality files its municipal ordinance violation cases before a municipal judge, such costs
53 shall not exceed the court costs authorized by subsection 1 of this section. If a municipality files

54 its municipal ordinance violations cases in the associate circuit division of the circuit court, such
55 costs shall not exceed the court costs authorized by subsection 2 of this section.

**488.5032. In the event a criminal case is dismissed in a circuit court in this state
2 before the defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty, the circuit judge may assess costs as
3 determined by section 488.012, RSMo, against any defendant if the defendant consents to
4 paying the costs except in those cases where the defendant is found by the judge to be
5 indigent and unable to pay the costs.**

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