

HB 482 -- APPOINTED COUNSEL FUND (Jones, 89)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Judiciary

This bill allows municipal courts to create an appointed counsel fund to pay the reasonable attorney fees approved by the court of any attorney appointed to represent a defendant who is indigent and unable to pay for legal representation when prescribed by Supreme Court rules.

Moneys for the fund will come from the \$1 fee collected on each case which currently is deposited into a judicial education fund. The court will determine the allocation of the fees between the accounts, but no court can retain more than \$1,500 in the judicial education fund for each judge, administrator, or clerk of the court and no more than \$5,000 in the appointed counsel fund.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.