

By: Representative Sanford

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 727

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-7-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE JUSTICE COURT FILING FEES IN PHASES THROUGH THE YEAR
3 2028; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 [Until June 30, 2026, this section shall read as follows:]

8 25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be
9 charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of
10 the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section
11 9-11-10:

12 (a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether
13 contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in
14 connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated, each....\$25.00

15 (b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of
16 process on each defendant..... 5.00



17 (c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further
18 proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and
19 attachment and garnishment proceedings..... 15.00
20 (d) For all services in connection with the issuance of
21 a peace bond..... 25.00
22 (e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate
23 thereof..... 10.00
24 (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00
25 (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00
26 (h) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal cases
27 in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:
28 (i) For all violations in Title 63 other than
29 driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless
30 driving..... 5.00
31 (ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00
32 (2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a fee
33 not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or
34 dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.
35 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
36 of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of
37 not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage
38 ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice
39 court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public.
40 This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each
41 justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage



ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

[From July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2028, this section shall read as follows:]

25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-11-10:

(a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated, each..... * * *\$40.00

(b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of process on each defendant..... 5.00

(c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and attachment and garnishment proceedings..... 15.00

(d) For all services in connection with the issuance of a peace bond..... 25.00

(e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate



67 thereof..... 10.00
68 (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00
69 (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00
70 (h) Renewal of final judgment..... 10.00
71 (* * *i) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal
72 cases in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:
73 (i) For all violations in Title 63 other than
74 driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless
75 driving..... * * *10.00
76 (ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00
77 (2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a fee
78 not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or
79 dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.
80 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
81 of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of
82 not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage
83 ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice
84 court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public.
85 This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each
86 justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage
87 ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and
88 the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage
89 request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of
90 the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an
91 amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not



considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

[From and after July 1, 2028, this section shall read as follows:]

25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-11-10:

- (a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated, each..... * * * \$55.00
- (b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of process on each defendant..... 5.00
- (c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and attachment and garnishment proceedings..... 15.00
- (d) For all services in connection with the issuance of a peace bond..... 25.00
- (e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate thereof..... 10.00
- (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00
- (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00
- (h) Renewal of final judgment..... 10.00



(* * *i) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal cases in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:

(i) For all violations in Title 63 other than driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless driving..... * * * 15.00

(ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00

(2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.

(3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1) of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public. This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

