



# Lake County Illinois

## Legislation Text

File #: 15-0865, Version: 3

Joint resolution authorizing and emergency appropriation in the amount of \$430,000, with offsetting revenue, in the Circuit Court's budget.

- Public Act 98-1132 mandates that jurors will be paid \$25 for the first day of service and \$50 per day for every day after, effective June 1, 2015.
- This increase has resulted in juror fees increasing from an average of \$3,900 per week to \$9,800 per week; a 151 percent increase.
- The Court's budget is not adequate to absorb this increase which is estimated at \$150,000 for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2015.
- Additionally, the arrest of over twenty individuals under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) has necessitated hiring several conflict attorneys.
- These attorneys are appointed only in cases where having an attorney from the Public Defender's Office would be a conflict of interest.
- Due to the seriousness and complexity of the criminal charges, attorney fees are estimated to be in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range per attorney.
- The Court's budget is not adequate to absorb these unanticipated costs.
- The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) recently announced that the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit would receive \$1,225,053 more in salary reimbursement for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 than previously awarded and a portion of these funds is being emergency appropriated to cover the above unexpected expenses.
- An emergency appropriation of \$150,000 for juror fees and \$280,000 for conflict attorneys, with offsetting revenue from salary reimbursements, is requested.

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Public Act 98-1132 mandates that jurors will be paid \$25 for the first day of service and \$50 per day for every day after, effective June 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase has resulted in juror fees increasing from an average of \$3,900 per week to \$9,800 per week; a 151 percent increase; and

**WHEREAS**, the arrest of over 20 individuals under the RICO has necessitated hiring several conflict attorneys in cases where having an attorney from the Public Defender's Office would be a conflict of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the seriousness and complexity of the criminal charges, attorney fees could be in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per case; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court's budget is not adequate to pay these unanticipated expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the AOIC announced that the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit would receive \$1,225,053 more in salary reimbursement for SFY 2014 than previously awarded; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency appropriation, with offsetting revenue, is needed for the remainder of the FY.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this County Board of Lake County, Illinois, that an increase of \$430,000 in the Court's budget, with offsetting revenue as detailed in the attached chart of accounts, is hereby approved.

**DATED** at Waukegan, Illinois, on September 8, 2015.