

1 HB725  
2 98943-1  
3 By Representative Keahey  
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government  
5 First Read: 13-MAR-08

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law authorizes the governing body  
9 of any county to establish and maintain a law  
10 library in each courthouse in the county.

11 This bill would provide further for  
12 permissible uses of moneys designated for use by  
13 the county library and would allow the moneys to be  
14 used for the maintenance of the law library and for  
15 other uses that promote the effective  
16 administration of justice. This bill would provide  
17 that the presiding circuit judge of the county  
18 could sell or otherwise dispose of the property of  
19 the law library and make purchases with the  
20 proceeds of the sale. This bill would authorize the  
21 presiding circuit judge to appoint personnel to  
22 oversee the operation of the law library.

23  
24 A BILL  
25 TO BE ENTITLED  
26 AN ACT  
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1           Relating to county law libraries, to provide further  
2 for the maintenance and operation of county law libraries; and  
3 to provide further for permissible uses of moneys designated  
4 for the county law library.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6           Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the  
7 contrary, in any county that has established a county law  
8 library fund pursuant to Chapter 25 of Title 11, the presiding  
9 circuit judge may authorize the moneys designated for the use  
10 of the law library to be expended for any of the following  
11 purposes:

12                   (1) The purchase of books, periodicals, equipment,  
13 software, hardware, furniture, fixtures, technology, and  
14 computers.

15                   (2) The cost of securing advice and attendance of  
16 witnesses.

17                   (3) Registration fees and actual expenses incurred  
18 by the judges and court employees when attending seminars,  
19 institutions, conferences, and other meetings related to  
20 continuing legal education and judicial education.

21                   (4) Membership dues in legal and judicial  
22 organizations.

23                   (5) Salaries of court employees where necessary for  
24 the efficient operations of the courts of the county.

25                   (6) Actual and necessary expenses incurred by the  
26 judges in promoting legal and judicial competency.

1           (7) Actual and necessary expenses of judges and  
2 court employees when ordered by the Chief Justice of the state  
3 Supreme Court to travel outside their districts or circuits on  
4 business.

5           (8) Other expenses as determined necessary by the  
6 presiding circuit court judge to promote the efficient  
7 administration of justice.

8           (b) The presiding circuit court judge shall draw  
9 warrants on the county for expenditures and shall indicate on  
10 the warrant the fund against which the warrant is drawn.

11           (c) The presiding circuit court judge may sell,  
12 exchange, or otherwise dispose of books, periodicals,  
13 equipment, and other property of the law library as necessary  
14 to keep the library up to date. The presiding judge may use  
15 any proceeds from the sale or exchange to purchase new books,  
16 periodicals, equipment, or other property. Any property  
17 purchased with such funds shall become the property of the  
18 county.

19           (d) The presiding circuit court judge may designate  
20 the clerk of the circuit court or another person to operate or  
21 assist in the operation of the law library.

22           (e) The moneys in each county law library fund shall  
23 be audited in the same manner as other funds of the county.

24           (f) Nothing in this act shall require a set sum of  
25 money to be expended on maintaining the law library and  
26 effectively administering justice.

1                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.