

By: White of Tyler

H.B. No. 1564

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of judicial donation trust funds to
3 assist needy children and families appearing before justice and
4 municipal courts.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 2, Government Code, is amended
7 by adding Chapter 36 to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 36. JUDICIAL DONATION TRUST FUNDS

9 Sec. 36.001. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUNDS. (a) The
10 governing body of a municipality or the commissioners court of a
11 county may establish a judicial donation trust fund as a separate
12 account held outside the municipal or county treasury to be used in
13 accordance with this chapter.

14 (b) The governing body of a municipality or the
15 commissioners court of a county may accept a gift, grant, donation,
16 or other consideration from a public or private source that is
17 designated for the judicial donation trust fund.

18 (c) Money received under Subsection (b) shall be deposited
19 in the judicial donation trust fund and may only be disbursed in
20 accordance with this chapter.

21 (d) Interest and income from the assets of the judicial
22 donation trust fund shall be credited to and deposited in the trust
23 fund.

24 Sec. 36.002. PROCEDURES AND ELIGIBILITY. The governing

1 body of a municipality or the commissioners court of a county shall:

2 (1) adopt the procedures necessary to receive and
3 disburse money from the judicial donation trust fund under this
4 chapter; and

5 (2) establish eligibility requirements for
6 disbursement of money under this chapter to assist needy children
7 or families who appear before a justice or municipal court for a
8 criminal offense, as applicable, by providing money for resources
9 and services that eliminate barriers to school attendance or that
10 seek to prevent criminal behavior.

11 Sec. 36.003. USE OF FUNDS IN ACCOUNT. (a) The judge of a
12 justice or municipal court, in accordance with Section 36.002, may
13 award money from a judicial donation trust fund established under
14 Section 36.001 to eligible children or families who appear before
15 the court for a truancy or curfew violation or in another
16 misdemeanor offense proceeding before the court.

17 (b) A judge of a justice or municipal court may order the
18 municipal or county treasurer to issue payment from the judicial
19 donation trust fund for money awarded under this section.

20 SECTION 2. Section [81.032](#), Local Government Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 81.032. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS. The
23 commissioners court may accept a gift, grant, donation, bequest, or
24 devise of money or other property on behalf of the county, including
25 a donation under Chapter 36, Government Code, for the purpose of
26 performing a function conferred by law on the county or a county
27 officer.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.