

By: White of Tyler

H.B. No. 2398

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 municipal or justice court, as  
8 applicable, by providing money for resources and services that  
9 eliminate barriers to school attendance or that seek to prevent  
10 delinquent conduct.

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 proceeding  
16 before the court.

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

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.