

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 618

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

ECONOMIC DEVELOP/DEPT: Increases certain fees assessed by Louisiana Economic Development

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:104(C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1), (D), and (E) and to enact
3 R.S. 36:104(E) and (F), relative to fees and costs assessed by Louisiana Economic
4 Development; to provide for the amounts of certain fees and costs of the department;
5 to authorize a new fee of the department; to authorize reductions in and waiving of
6 certain fees at the discretion of the secretary of the department; to authorize
7 inflationary adjustments of certain fee amounts; to provide for an effective date; and
8 to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 36:104(C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1), (D), and (E) are hereby amended
11 and reenacted and R.S. 36:104(E) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §104. Powers and duties of the secretary of economic development

13 * * *

14 C. ~~The~~ Except as authorized in Subsection F of this Section, the amount of
15 fees and costs shall not exceed the following:

16 (1) The fee for an advance notification shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~
17 three hundred fifty dollars.

18 (2) The fee for filing an application shall be equal to one-half of one percent
19 of the amount of the incentives or exempted taxes. However, the minimum amount

1 shall be ~~five hundred~~ six hundred fifty dollars and the maximum amount of the fee
2 shall be ~~fifteen thousand~~ twenty thousand dollars.

3 (3) The fee for a loan guaranty shall not exceed ~~four~~ five and one-half
4 percent of the guaranteed loan amount.

5 (4) The fee for an affidavit of final cost or project completion report,
6 regardless of whether it is the original report or an amended report, shall not exceed
7 ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

8 (5) The fee for an annual certification report, including but not limited to
9 compliance reports, employee reports, and payroll reports, shall not exceed ~~two~~
10 ~~hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

11 (6) The fee for a contract amendment, including but not limited to a transfer
12 or name change, shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

13 (7) The fee for a contract renewal shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ six
14 hundred fifty dollars.

15 (8) The fee for a statutorily required verification report, including but not
16 limited to an expenditure verification by a certified public accountant or tax attorney,
17 audits, attestations, tax opinions, or other reports under agreed-upon procedures shall
18 not exceed the actual cost to the department based on hours expended at a rate not
19 to exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars ~~an~~ per hour for
20 department-contracted services or salary and benefits for department employee
21 services.

22 (9) The fee for any miscellaneous, unique administrative document,
23 including but not limited to special requests and revised or reissued certification or
24 rebate letters, shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars.

25 D. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the secretary may
26 exercise discretion in the collection of fees and may authorize a reduction of or
27 waive fees for small businesses if fees present a financial hardship and are
28 disproportionate to benefits received and the reduction or waiver is determined to be
29 in the best interest of the state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 618 Original

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Increases the amounts of certain fees assessed by La. Economic Development (LED), authorizes inflationary adjustments of LED fee amounts, and authorizes reductions in or waiving of certain fees at the discretion of the LED secretary.

Present law provides for powers and duties of the secretary of LED. Authorizes the secretary to impose fees and costs for certain purposes in amounts not to exceed specified levels.

Proposed law changes LED fees as follows:

- (1) Increases the maximum fee for an advance notification from \$250 to \$350.
- (2) Increases the minimum fee for filing an application from \$500 to \$650 and the maximum fee from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- (3) Increases the maximum fee for a loan guaranty from 4% of the guaranteed loan amount to 5.5% of the guaranteed loan amount.
- (4) Increases the maximum fee for an affidavit of final cost or project completion report from \$250 to \$350.
- (5) Increases the maximum fee for an annual certification report from \$250 to \$350.
- (6) Increases the maximum fee for a contract amendment from \$250 to \$350.
- (7) Increases the maximum fee for a contract renewal from \$250 to \$650.
- (8) Increases the maximum fee for a statutorily required verification report from \$250 per hour for contracted or in-house services to \$350 per hour for those services.
- (9) Increases the maximum hourly rate to which the fee for certain expenditure or expense verification reports obtained through contracted services from \$225 per hour to \$325 per hour for those services and repeals the maximum overall fee cap of \$25,000.
- (10) Increases the maximum fee for an expenditure or expense verification report in connection with an application for certification of tax credits from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Proposed law establishes a new LED fee for any miscellaneous, unique administrative document in a maximum amount of \$350.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of LED to exercise discretion in the collection of fees and reduce or waive fees for small businesses if fees present a financial hardship and are disproportionate to benefits received, and the reduction or waiver is determined to be in the best interest of the state.

Proposed law provides that on Jan. 1, 2029, and every two years thereafter, the minimum and maximum amounts of LED fees collected pursuant to present law and proposed law may

be adjusted according to the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index. Requires the department to publish the adjusted minimum and maximum fee amounts on its website.

Effective Jan. 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 36:104(C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1), (D), and (E); Adds R.S. 36:104(E) and (F))