

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 316

BY SENATOR REESE

PUBLIC DEFENDER. Provides relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:167(C), (D), and (E) and to enact R.S. 15:167(F) and (G),  
3 relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund; to provide for calculations to  
4 determine the minimum amount deposited into the fund; to provide for the authority  
5 to allocate funds; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:167(C), (D), and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 15:167(F) and (G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §167. Louisiana Public Defender Fund

10 \* \* \*

11 **C.(1) The minimum amount appropriated to the LPD Fund shall be**  
12 **determined by multiplying the combined number of district attorney and**  
13 **assistant district attorney warrants, as described in R.S. 16:51, by the actual**  
14 **assistant district attorney warrant value in addition to a supplement of fifteen**  
15 **thousand dollars per district attorney and assistant district attorney warrant.**

16 **(2) The actual assistant district attorney warrant value includes the**  
17 **warrant amount described in R.S. 16:11 for each assistant district attorney plus**

1           the value of retirement and benefits.

2                   (3) The supplement per district attorney and assistant district attorney  
3           warrant may be used to fund the office's administrative and contractual  
4           obligations.

5                   D. Monies in the fund shall be appropriated and used solely and exclusively  
6           to provide for the implementation of the Louisiana Public Defender Act and the  
7           program.

8                   ~~D.~~ E. The LPD Fund shall be administered by the office as authorized by the  
9           provisions of the Louisiana Public Defender Act. The office is hereby authorized to  
10          establish such accounts or sub-accounts within the LPD Fund as deemed necessary  
11          to comply with the provisions of the Louisiana Public Defender Act and the program.

12                   ~~E.~~ F. The office shall dedicate and disburse at least seventy-five percent of  
13          the entirety of its annual budget and its funds in the LPD Fund as defined in  
14          Subsection A of this Section each fiscal year to the offices of the district public  
15          defenders and their indigent defender funds as defined in R.S. 15:168(A) in the  
16          various judicial districts throughout the state. The provisions of this Subsection shall  
17          not apply to statutorily dedicated funds or funds received through the awarding of  
18          grants.

19                   G. The state public defender shall have the authority to allocate the LPD  
20          Fund to provide district supplemental assistance as required by R.S.  
21          15:152(B)(1).

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

---

SB 316 Original

DIGEST  
2026 Regular Session

Reese

Present law created the La. Public Defender Fund (LPD Fund) in the state treasury, with monies in the fund appropriated, administered, and used solely and exclusively for purposes of the La. Public Defender Act.

Proposed law requires the minimum amount appropriated to the LPD Fund be determined by multiplying the combined number of district attorney and assistant district attorney warrants by the actual assistant district attorney warrant value in addition to a supplement

of \$15,000 per district attorney and assistant district attorney warrant.

Proposed law authorizes the supplement of \$15,000 per district attorney and assistant district attorney warrant to be used to fund the office's administrative and contractual obligations.

Proposed law grants the state public defender the authority to allocate the LPD Fund to provide supplemental assistance as required by present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 15:167(C), (D), and (E); adds R.S. 15:167(F) and (G))