

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 978

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

INDIGENT DEFENSE: Provides an exception for the town of Addis to the mandatory assessment and remittance of special costs to the district indigent defender fund

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:168(B)(1)(a), relative to the judicial district indigent defender  
3 fund; to provide an exception in favor of the town of Addis; and to provide for  
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:168(B)(1)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §168. Judicial district indigent defender fund

8 \* \* \*

9 B.(1)(a) Every court of original criminal jurisdiction, except in the town of  
10 Addis, in the town of Jonesville, in the city of Plaquemine, and in mayors' courts in  
11 municipalities having a population of less than five thousand, shall remit the  
12 following special costs to the district indigent defender fund for the following  
13 violations, under state statute as well as under parish or municipal ordinance, except  
14 a parking violation. Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the  
15 sum of forty-five dollars shall be assessed in cases in which a defendant is convicted  
16 after a trial, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or after forfeiting bond and shall be  
17 in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures imposed.

18 \* \* \*

---

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 978 Original

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

**Abstract:** Provides an exception for the town of Addis to the mandatory assessment and remittance of special costs to the district indigent defender fund.

Present law requires every court of original criminal jurisdiction, except the town of Jonesville, the city of Plaquemine, and mayors' courts in municipalities having a population of less than 5,000, to remit special costs to the district indigent defender fund for certain violations, except parking violations.

Present law requires the sum of \$35 to be assessed in cases in which a defendant is convicted after a trial, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or after forfeiting bond in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures imposed.

Present law further requires such amounts to be remitted monthly by the respective recipients to the judicial district indigent defender fund by the 10th day of the succeeding month.

Proposed law adds an exception to exclude the town of Addis from the requirements of present law.

(Amends R.S. 15:168(B)(1)(a))