

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 316** SLS 26RS 341  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP SEN COMM AMD**  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 27, 2026 9:54 AM	<b>Author:</b> REESE
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Office of the State Public Defender	<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet
<b>Subject:</b> Louisiana Public Defender Fund - Minimum Appropriation	

PUBLIC DEFENDER OR -\$158 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund. (8/1/26)

Current law provides for the Louisiana Public Defender Fund in the state treasury, with monies in the fund appropriated, administered, and used solely and exclusively for purposes of the Louisiana Public Defender Act. Proposed law requires the minimum amount appropriated to the Louisiana Public Defender 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 \$13,885 per district attorney and assistant district attorney warrant; provides that the actual assistant district attorney warrant value includes the warrant amount described in R.S. 16:11 for each assistant district attorney plus the value of retirement and benefits; provides that the supplement of \$13,885 per district attorney and assistant district attorney warrant to be used to fund the office's administrative and contractual obligations; and grants the state public defender the authority to allocate the Louisiana Public Defender Fund to provide supplemental assistance as required in current law.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	(\$158)	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	(\$158)
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>(\$158)</b>					<b>(\$158)</b>

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will result in a decrease of \$158 SGF expenditures in FY 27 and an indeterminable impact on SGF expenditures in subsequent fiscal years in the Office of the State Public Defender. Proposed law provides that for FY 27, the minimum amount appropriated to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund shall be determined by multiplying the combined number of district attorney (DA) and assistant district attorney (ADA) warrants in existence at the beginning of FY 26, as described in R.S. 16:51, by the actual ADA warrant value in addition to a supplement of \$13,885 per DA and ADA warrant. The following are calculations associated with the \$158 decrease in FY 27:

FY 27 Minimum Appropriation	\$47,109,510
FY 26 Public Defender Fund	\$47,109,668
Change from FY 26 to FY 27	(\$ 158)
Actual ADA Warrant Value	\$ 56,850
Combined Number of ADA's and DA's	x 666
	\$37,862,100
Supplement Per DA and ADA Warrant	\$ 9,247,410
	\$47,109,510

**Actual Assistant District Attorney Warrant Value:** The actual assistant district attorney warrant value includes the warrant amount described in R.S. 16:11 (\$50,000) for each assistant district attorney (624 total), plus the value of retirement and benefits.

Salary	\$50,000
Retirement (12.25%)	\$ 6,125
Medicare (1.45%)	\$ 725
Total Per Warrant	\$56,850


Supplement of \$13,885 per District Attorney (DA) and Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Warrant - \$13,885 x 666 = \$9,247,410

[CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO]

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

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**Subsequent Fiscal Years and Proposed Legislation of 2026 Regular Session**

Proposed law provides that for FY 28 and each fiscal year thereafter, the minimum amount appropriated to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund shall be determined by multiplying the combined number of district attorney (DA) and assistant district attorney (ADA) warrants, as described in R.S. 16:51, by the actual ADA warrant value in addition to a supplement of \$13,885 per DA and ADA warrant. To the extent warrants to the district attorneys change in future fiscal years, a corresponding change in allocations to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund will be realized.

Current legislation filed during the 2026 RS (HB 660, HB 719, and SB 454) may increase the annual salaries of assistant district attorneys and district attorneys statewide (from \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually), increase the overall number of assistant district attorneys statewide, or apportion the number of assistant district attorneys relative to population. If enacted, each of these instruments may impact the overall minimum amount appropriated to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund in FY 28 and subsequent fiscal years.

Senate  
Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**