

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 413

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

INDIGENT DEFENSE: Provides relative to the funding of public defenders

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:167(B), relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Fund; to
3 provide relative to the funding of public defenders; to require the state treasurer to
4 deposit funds for the annual funding for district public defenders and public
5 defenders; to require the board to allocate the funds; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 15:167(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §167. Louisiana Public Defender Fund

10 * * *

11 B.(1) The fund shall be comprised of all monies appropriated, donated, or
12 otherwise made available to provide funding for the provisions of the Louisiana
13 Public Defender Act. All of such monies required to be deposited in the state
14 treasury in accordance with Article VII, Section 9(A) of the Constitution of
15 Louisiana shall be deposited in the fund after first meeting the requirements of
16 Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond
17 Security and Redemption Fund.

18 (2) For Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and each fiscal year thereafter, the state
19 treasurer shall deposit sufficient funds into the Louisiana Public Defender Fund to
20 provide annual funding of forty-nine thousand dollars for each district public

that proposed law does not guarantee a level of funding for any district defender office. Authorizes the district defender to reallocate the funds by combining or dividing the total amount to pay for the salaries of the public defenders in his district or any other operating costs.

Proposed law provides that the total amount of money deposited into the La. Public Defender Fund to satisfy the requirements of proposed law shall comprise 65% of the total amount of money deposited into the fund each fiscal year.

(Amends R.S. 15:167(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Specify that the allocations in proposed law shall be as the La. Public Defender Board deems appropriate and shall not be construed to establish a level of funding for any particular district defender office.
2. Add that expenditures shall be in accordance with rules and standards adopted by the La. Public Defender Board pursuant to the La. Public Defender Act.
3. Provide that the deposits into the La. Public Defender Fund under proposed law shall comprise 65% of the total deposits into the fund instead of not exceeding 65% of the total deposits into the fund.