
DIGEST

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HB 413 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Requires the state treasurer to deposit sufficient funds into the La. Public Defender Fund for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and each fiscal year thereafter to provide annual funding for each district public defender and public defenders.

Present law provides for the creation of the La. Public Defender Fund in the state treasury and the composition of the fund, administration of the fund, and use of monies from the fund.

Proposed law requires the state treasurer to deposit sufficient funds into the La. Public Defender Fund for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and each fiscal year thereafter to provide annual funding of \$49,000 for each district public defender and \$44,000 for each public defender equal to the same number of positions provided by R.S. 16:51 (which provides for the number of asst. district attorneys). Proposed law further requires the board to allocate the funds to the district defender offices and their indigent defender funds in the various judicial districts throughout the state. Authorizes the board to determine the allocation and specifies 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.