

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 978

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

INDIGENT DEFENSE: Changes the municipality threshold relative 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 for municipalities with certain populations; and to  
4 provide for 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 Jonesville, in the city of Plaquemine, and in mayors' courts in municipalities having  
11 a population of less than ~~five~~ nine thousand, shall remit the following special costs  
12 to the district indigent defender fund for the following violations, under state statute  
13 as well as under parish or municipal ordinance, except a parking violation. Except  
14 as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the sum of forty-five dollars shall  
15 be assessed in cases in which a defendant is convicted after a trial, a plea of guilty  
16 or nolo contendere, or after forfeiting bond and shall be in addition to all other fines,  
17 costs, or forfeitures imposed.

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**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)]

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HB 978 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

**Abstract:** Changes the municipality population threshold relative 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.

Proposed law changes the municipality population threshold for the remittance of special costs from less than 5,000 to less than 9,000. Otherwise retains present law.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law that creates an exception for the town of Addis.
2. Change the required population threshold for municipalities to remit certain special costs to the district indigent defender fund from less than 5,000 to less than 9,000.
3. Make technical changes.