

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 657 (HB 618)

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Existing law provides for powers and duties of the secretary of La. Economic Development (LED).

Prior law authorized the secretary to enter into certain transactions involving property, subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).

New law removes oversight by JLCB of the purchase process and instead requires LED to submit an annual report of the transaction to JLCB.

Existing law authorizes the secretary to establish and collect certain fees.

Prior law provided for the amount of fees and costs.

New law changes LED fees as follows:

- (1) Increases the maximum fee for an advance notification from \$250 to \$350.
- (2) Increases the minimum fee for filing an application from \$500 to \$650 and the maximum fee from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- (3) Increases the maximum fee for a loan guaranty from 4% of the guaranteed loan amount to 5.5% of the guaranteed loan amount.
- (4) Increases the maximum fee for an affidavit of final cost or project completion report from \$250 to \$350.
- (5) Increases the maximum fee for an annual certification report from \$250 to \$350.
- (6) Increases the maximum fee for a contract amendment from \$250 to \$350.
- (7) Increases the maximum fee for a contract renewal from \$250 to \$650.
- (8) Increases the maximum fee for a statutorily required verification report from \$250 per hour for contracted or department employee services to \$350 per hour for those services.

New law establishes a new LED fee for any miscellaneous, unique administrative document in a maximum amount of \$350.

New law authorizes the secretary of LED to exercise discretion in the collection of fees and reduce or waive fees for small businesses if fees present a financial hardship and are disproportionate to benefits received, and the reduction or waiver is determined to be in the best interest of the state.

Prior law defined "certified public accountant" or "CPA".

New law clarifies the definition.

Prior law required that the applicant seeking certification of tax credits shall be responsible for and assessed an expenditure or expense verification report fee, which shall be equal to the actual cost of the verification report.

New law changes certification of tax credits to a statutorily required verification report.

Prior law provided that the fee shall not exceed \$25,000 and shall be based upon either an hourly rate not to exceed \$225 per hour for contract services, or the pro rata cost of salary and benefits for a department-employed CPA.

New law increases the maximum hourly rate from \$225 to \$325 and repeals the maximum overall fee cap of \$25,000.

Prior law requires the applicant seeking certification of tax credits to submit an up-front deposit of the expenditure or expense verification report fee, which shall not exceed \$15,000, as required by the relevant program statute or rules.

New law increases the maximum fee from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 36:104(A)(17)(d), (C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1) and (2), (D), and (E); Adds R.S. 36:104(E))