

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

House Bill No. 325 by Representative Arnold

INDIGENT DEFENSE: Increases the special cost assessed in criminal cases in each judicial district court for the district indigent defender fund

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Changes the expiration date of the increased court cost from August 1, 2014, to August 1, 2016.
2. Changes the date on which the La. Public Defender Board is required to report to the legislature from prior to the 2014 R.S. to prior to the 2016 R.S.
3. Adds provision which requires mayors' courts that are required to assess the special court costs to continue to assess the court costs in the amount stated in present law after the effective date of the proposed law.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law provides for the assessment of a \$35 special cost in each district court in all criminal cases where the defendant has been convicted, has plead guilty or nolo contendere, or has forfeited bond. Provides for the use and administration of such funds by the district public defender.

Proposed law increases the special cost from \$35 to \$45, and provides that the increased cost shall expire on Aug. 1, 2016. Thereafter, the cost shall be \$35 as provided for in present law.

Proposed law requires the La. Public Defender Board to provide a report to the legislature prior to the 2016 R.S. which details how the funds provided for in proposed law were utilized.

Proposed law requires mayors' courts who are required to assess the special cost pursuant to present law to continue to assess the court cost in the present law amount of \$35 after the effective date of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

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