
SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to Original Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 by Senator Crowe

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, delete line 18 and insert the following:

3 "WHEREAS, except for the inherent regulatory authority of the Louisiana Supreme
4 Court provided for in Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana regarding the
5 regulation of the practice of law, the Louisiana Public Defender Board shall have all
6 regulatory authority, control, supervision, and jurisdiction, including auditing and
7 enforcement, and all power incidental or necessary to such regulatory authority, control,
8 supervision, and jurisdiction over all aspects of the delivery of public defender services
9 throughout the courts of the state of Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana, along with Illinois, has the highest exoneration rate of any
11 other state in the United States of America, resulting in the incarceration of citizens for
12 crimes that they did not commit; and

13 WHEREAS, since January 2012, Louisiana has had two public defender offices
14 forced to restrict services for lack of sufficient funding, in that those offices could no longer
15 ethically or professionally provide public defender services to all eligible clients, and several
16 other public defender offices have had to make significant cuts to their budgets for lack of
17 sufficient funding; and

18 WHEREAS, at present, Louisiana has two full-time staff public defender offices;
19 nineteen full-time decentralized public defender offices; eight centralized contract public
20 defender offices; five public defender offices in transition to a centralized full-time office;
21 and eight hybrid public defender offices; and

22 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Defender Board's strategic plan calls for an
23 evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of contract versus staff delivery systems on a
24 district-by-district basis, with full consideration of appropriate salary ranges, to be completed
25 by Fiscal Year 2015; and

26 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Defender Board is statutorily mandated to adopt
27 rules for the establishment of salary ranges for attorneys and support staff delivering public
28 defender services, taking into consideration variations in public defense practices and
29 procedures in rural, urban, and suburban districts, as well as professional experience,
30 pursuant to R.S. 15:147(B)(16)."

31 AMENDMENT NO. 2

32 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 8

33 AMENDMENT NO. 3

34 On page 2, line 12, after "system," insert "or through an exclusively full-time staff system,"

35 AMENDMENT NO. 4

36 On page 2, line 13, change "January 10, 2014" to "January 15, 2015"