

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 168

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

PUBLIC DEFENDER. Provides relative to appointments to the Louisiana Public Defender Board. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:146(A)(5), relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Board; to provide
3 requirements for the membership of the board; to provide for transition; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:146(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §146. Louisiana Public Defender Board

8 A.

9 * * *

10 **(5) When a vacancy occurs, whether by expiration of a term, resignation,**
11 **or other event, the board staff shall submit to the appointing entity a list**
12 **identifying the residency of the current board members by congressional**
13 **district, and request that, to the extent possible, the entity make their**
14 **appointment from the residents of under-represented districts.**

15 * * *

The original instrument was prepared by Cathy R. Wells. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Walsworth (SB 168)

Present law creates the Louisiana Public Defender Board. The board has 15 members, plus two ex officio, nonvoting members.

Present law requires appointment of board members as follows:

- (1) The governor appoints two members.
- (2) The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana appoints two members; one member shall be a juvenile justice advocate; the other shall be a retired judge with criminal law experience.
- (3) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives each appoint one member.
- (4) The governor appoints one member representing the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center who is an active employee, retired employee or has an academic association with the Paul M. Hebert Law Center.
- (5) The governor appoints one member representing the Loyola University School of Law who is an active employee, retired employee or has an academic association with the Loyola University School of Law.
- (6) The governor appoints one member representing the Southern University Law Center who is an active employee, retired employee or has an academic association with the Southern University Law Center.
- (7) The governor appoints one member representing the Tulane University School of Law who is an active employee, retired employee or has an academic association with the Tulane University School of Law.
- (8) The president of the Louisiana State Bar Association appoints two members.
- (9) The president of the Louisiana Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Society appoints one member.
- (10) The chairman of the Louisiana State Law Institute's Children Code Committee appoints one member.
- (11) The executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference appoints one member.

Present law provides for the appointment of two ex officio, nonvoting members by the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Louisiana Public Defender's Association.

Proposed law provides that when a vacancy occurs, the board staff shall submit to the appointment entity a list identifying the residency of the current board members by congressional district, and request that, to the extent possible, the entity make their appointments from the residents of under-represented districts.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 15:146(A)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Changes from requiring at least two members be appointed from each congressional district to requiring staff, upon a vacancy, to notify the appointing entity of current board membership by congressional district and request appointment come from an under-represented district.