

---

## 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)]

---

HB 167 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Mack

**Abstract:** Requires funds to be distributed in the first 45 days of the fiscal year based upon a plan published by the La. Public Defender Board, and requires that an additional 5% of its annual budget and funds in the La. Public Defender Fund shall be reserved for district assistance.

Present law provides for the creation of the La. Public Defender Fund and requires the La. Public Defender Board to dedicate and disburse at least 65% of its annual budget and its funds in the La. Public Defender Fund each fiscal year to the district defender offices and their indigent defender funds in the various judicial districts throughout the state.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that this amount shall be fully distributed in the first 45 days of the fiscal year based on an objective plan published by the board no later than April 30th of each calendar year.

Proposed law further provides that an additional 5% of the entirety of the board's annual budget and its funds in the La. Public Defender Fund shall be reserved by the board, designated as "Reserve District Assistance Fund", for contingencies that may arise in the districts. The board may reserve these funds until a need arises, but it shall not be disbursed for purposes other than district assistance as part of the District Assistance Fund.

(Amends R.S. 15:167(E))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove the requirement that the funds be dedicated and disbursed by Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> each year and instead require the funds to be fully distributed in the first 45 days of the fiscal year based on an objective plan published by the board no later than April 30th of each calendar year.
2. Provide that an additional 5% of the entirety of the board's annual budget and its funds in the La. Public Defender Fund shall be reserved by the board for contingencies that may arise in the districts, to be used only for district assistance.