

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 618

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

ECONOMIC DEVELOP/DEPT: Increases certain fees assessed by Louisiana Economic Development

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:104(C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1) and (2), (D), and (E) and to
3 enact R.S. 36:104(E), relative to fees and costs assessed by Louisiana Economic
4 Development; to provide for the amounts of certain fees and costs of the department;
5 to authorize a new fee of the department; to authorize reductions in and waiving of
6 certain fees at the discretion of the secretary of the department; to provide for an
7 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 36:104(C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1) and (2), (D), and (E) are hereby
10 amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:104(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §104. Powers and duties of the secretary of economic development

12 * * *

13 C. The amount of fees and costs shall not exceed the following:

14 (1) The fee for an advance notification shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~
15 three hundred fifty dollars.

16 (2) The fee for filing an application shall be equal to one-half of one percent
17 of the amount of the incentives or exempted taxes. However, the minimum amount
18 shall be ~~five hundred~~ six hundred fifty dollars and the maximum amount of the fee
19 shall be ~~fifteen thousand~~ twenty thousand dollars.

1 (3) The fee for a loan guaranty shall not exceed ~~four~~ five and one-half
2 percent of the guaranteed loan amount.

3 (4) The fee for an affidavit of final cost or project completion report,
4 regardless of whether it is the original report or an amended report, shall not exceed
5 ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

6 (5) The fee for an annual certification report, including but not limited to
7 compliance reports, employee reports, and payroll reports, shall not exceed ~~two~~
8 ~~hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

9 (6) The fee for a contract amendment, including but not limited to a transfer
10 or name change, shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars.

11 (7) The fee for a contract renewal shall not exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ six
12 hundred fifty dollars.

13 (8) The fee for a statutorily required verification report, including but not
14 limited to an expenditure verification by a certified public accountant or tax attorney,
15 audits, attestations, tax opinions, or other reports under agreed-upon procedures shall
16 not exceed the actual cost to the department based on hours expended at a rate not
17 to exceed ~~two hundred fifty~~ three hundred fifty dollars ~~an~~ per hour for
18 department-contracted services or salary and benefits for department employee
19 services.

20 (9) The fee for any miscellaneous, unique administrative document,
21 including but not limited to special requests and revised or reissued certification or
22 rebate letters, shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars.

23 D. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the secretary may
24 exercise discretion in the collection of fees and may authorize a reduction of or
25 waive fees for small businesses if fees present a financial hardship and are
26 disproportionate to benefits received and the reduction or waiver is determined to be
27 in the best interest of the state.

28 ~~D. E.~~ E. Fees collected pursuant to Subsection C of ~~the~~ this Section shall be
29 used solely for costs associated with the administration of department programs.

1 §104.1. Fee for independent certified public accountant or tax attorney verification
2 reports required for certain Louisiana Economic Development programs

3 * * *

4 B. For purposes of this Section, the term "certified public accountant", or
5 "CPA", ~~shall mean~~ means a person who meets all of the following qualifications:

6 (1) Maintains an active ~~unrestricted original~~ certified public ~~account~~
7 accountant license and is in good standing.

8 (2) Maintains a current Louisiana certified public ~~account~~ accountant firm
9 permit.

10 * * *

11 D. The applicant seeking ~~certification of tax credits~~ a statutorily required
12 verification report shall be responsible for and assessed an expenditure or expense
13 verification report fee which shall be equal to the actual cost of the verification
14 report. The fee ~~shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars~~ and shall be based upon
15 either an hourly rate not to exceed ~~two hundred twenty-five~~ three hundred
16 twenty-five dollars per hour for contract services, or the pro rata cost of salary and
17 benefits for a department-employed CPA.

18 E. The applicant seeking certification of tax credits shall be required to
19 submit an up-front deposit of the expenditure or expense verification report fee,
20 which shall not exceed ~~fifteen thousand~~ twenty thousand dollars, as required by the
21 relative applicable program statute or rules.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

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 618 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Increases the amounts of certain fees assessed by La. Economic Development (LED), authorizes inflationary adjustments of LED fee amounts, and authorizes reductions in or waiving of certain fees at the discretion of the LED secretary.

Present law provides for powers and duties of the secretary of LED. Authorizes the secretary to impose fees and costs for certain purposes in amounts not to exceed specified levels.

Proposed 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 in-house services to \$350 per hour for those services.
- (9) Increases the maximum hourly rate to which the fee for certain expenditure or expense verification reports obtained through contracted services from \$225 per hour to \$325 per hour for those services and repeals the maximum overall fee cap of \$25,000.
- (10) Increases the maximum fee for an expenditure or expense verification report in connection with an application for certification of tax credits from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

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

Proposed 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.

Effective Jan. 1, 2027.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove a provision allowing LED to biannually adjust the minimum and maximum amounts of fees according to the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index and to publish those adjusted fees on its website.