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## DIGEST

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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.