

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 454

BY SENATOR MORRIS

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS. Provides for a population based allocation of assistant district attorney positions in the state. (7/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 16:51(A) and 54(A), relative to assistant district attorneys; to
3 provide for the number of assistant district attorneys per judicial district; to provide
4 for a population based allocation of assistant district attorney positions; to provide
5 relative to the approval of additional assistant district attorney positions; to provide
6 exceptions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 16:51(A) and 54(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §51. Assistant district attorneys

11 A. The district attorney of each judicial district and of the parish of Orleans
12 shall appoint a first assistant district attorney and such other assistant district
13 attorneys for his respective judicial district or for the parish of Orleans as may be
14 necessary, the total number of assistant district attorneys in each judicial district and
15 in the parish of Orleans ~~to be~~ **shall** not ~~be~~ less than the following:

16 **(1) Judicial districts with a total population of ten thousand or less**
17 **persons according to the latest federal decennial census, one assistant district**

1 attorney.

2 (2) Judicial districts with a total population of more than ten thousand
3 but not more than one hundred thousand persons according to the latest federal
4 decennial census, one assistant district attorney per each seven thousand
5 persons.

6 (3) Judicial districts with a total population of more than one hundred
7 thousand persons according to the latest federal decennial census, one assistant
8 district attorney per each seven thousand five hundred persons.

9 ~~(1) In the First Judicial District, thirty-five assistant district attorneys;~~

10 ~~(2) In the Second Judicial District, ten assistant district attorneys;~~

11 ~~(3) In the Third Judicial District, nine assistant district attorneys;~~

12 ~~(4) In the Fourth Judicial District, twenty-six assistant district attorneys;~~

13 ~~(5) In the Fifth Judicial District, seven assistant district attorneys;~~

14 ~~(6) In the Sixth Judicial District, seven assistant district attorneys;~~

15 ~~(7) In the Seventh Judicial District, six assistant district attorneys;~~

16 ~~(8) In the Eighth Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys;~~

17 ~~(9) In the Ninth Judicial District, fifteen assistant district attorneys;~~

18 ~~(10) In the Tenth Judicial District, five assistant district attorneys;~~

19 ~~(11) In the Eleventh Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys;~~

20 ~~(12) In the Twelfth Judicial District, eight assistant district attorneys;~~

21 ~~(13) In the Thirteenth Judicial District, five assistant district attorneys;~~

22 ~~(14) In the Fourteenth Judicial District, twenty-five assistant district~~
23 ~~attorneys;~~

24 ~~(15) In the Fifteenth Judicial District, twenty-eight assistant district attorneys;~~

25 ~~(16) In the Sixteenth Judicial District, twenty-three assistant district~~
26 ~~attorneys;~~

27 ~~(17) In the Seventeenth Judicial District, thirteen assistant district attorneys;~~

28 ~~(18) In the Eighteenth Judicial District, thirteen assistant district attorneys;~~

29 ~~(19) In the Nineteenth Judicial District, fifty-five assistant district attorneys;~~

- 1 ~~(20) In the Twentieth Judicial District, five assistant district attorneys;~~
- 2 ~~(21) In the Twenty-First Judicial District, nineteen assistant district attorneys;~~
- 3 ~~(22) In the Twenty-Second Judicial District, thirty assistant district attorneys;~~
- 4 ~~(23) In the Twenty-Third Judicial District, nineteen assistant district~~
- 5 ~~attorneys;~~
- 6 ~~(24) In the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District, fifty-four assistant district~~
- 7 ~~attorneys;~~
- 8 ~~(25) In the Twenty-Fifth Judicial District, five assistant district attorneys;~~
- 9 ~~(26) In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District, thirteen assistant district attorneys;~~
- 10 ~~(27) In the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District, twelve assistant district~~
- 11 ~~attorneys;~~
- 12 ~~(28) In the Twenty-Eighth Judicial District, three assistant district attorneys;~~
- 13 ~~(29) In the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District, ten assistant district attorneys;~~
- 14 ~~(30) In the Thirtieth Judicial District, six assistant district attorneys;~~
- 15 ~~(31) In the Thirty-First Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys;~~
- 16 ~~(32) In the Thirty-Second Judicial District, twenty-one assistant district~~
- 17 ~~attorneys;~~
- 18 ~~(33) In the Thirty-Third Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys;~~
- 19 ~~(34) In the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District, nine assistant district attorneys;~~
- 20 ~~(35) In the Thirty-Fifth Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys;~~
- 21 ~~(36) In the Thirty-Sixth Judicial District, five assistant district attorneys;~~
- 22 ~~(37) In the Thirty-Seventh Judicial District, three assistant district attorneys;~~
- 23 ~~(38) In the parish of Orleans, eighty-three assistant district attorneys;~~
- 24 ~~(39) In the Thirty-Eighth Judicial District, two assistant district attorneys;~~
- 25 ~~(40) In the Thirty-Ninth Judicial District, two assistant district attorneys;~~
- 26 ~~(41) In the Fortieth Judicial District, nine assistant district attorneys;~~
- 27 ~~(42) In the Forty-Second Judicial District, four assistant district attorneys.~~

* * *

29 §54. Advisory and Review Commission on Assistant District Attorneys; purposes;

1 membership; appointments; expenses; rules; meetings

2 A. There is hereby created within the office of the governor the Governor's
3 Advisory and Review Commission on Assistant District Attorneys, hereafter referred
4 to as the commission, to advise the governor and the legislature with respect to state
5 funded additional assistant district attorney positions in the respective judicial
6 districts and the parish of Orleans. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 16:53, the
7 determination of the commission as to the necessity for each additional district
8 attorney position in each judicial district shall be final, and no position of additional
9 assistant district attorney to be paid by the state shall be enacted without the approval
10 of the commission; however, such approval shall not be required for any
11 reallocation of authorized assistant district attorney positions among judicial
12 districts in R.S. 16:51, provided that the total number of such positions
13 authorized statewide is not increased.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 454 Original

2026 Regular Session

Morris

Present law provides for the number of assistant district attorneys for the various judicial districts.

Proposed law changes the number of assistant district attorneys for the various judicial districts to be based on the population of a judicial district according to the latest federal decennial census as follows:

- (1) Judicial districts with a population of 10,000 or less persons, one assistant district attorney.
- (2) Judicial districts with a population of 10,000 or more but not more than 100,000 persons, one assistant district attorney per each 7,000 persons.
- (3) Judicial districts with a population greater than 100,000 persons, one assistant district attorney per each 7,500 persons.

Present law provides for the review of additional assistant district attorneys by the Governor's Advisory and Review Commission on Assistant District Attorneys. Further prohibits the legislature from enacting an additional position of assistant district attorney to

be paid by the state without approval by the commission.

Proposed law exempts any reallocation of authorized assistant district attorney positions in accordance with proposed law from the approval requirements and otherwise retains present law.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 16:51(A) and 54(A))