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## DIGEST

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HB 738 Original

2018 Regular Session

Hunter

**Abstract:** Adds an exception to the state contract prohibition to allow statewide elected officials, legislators, specified agency heads, other specified public servants, immediate family members of such persons, and related legal entities to enter contracts to be a public defender.

Present law prohibits statewide elected officials, legislators, specified agency heads, and other public servants, their spouses, and any legal entity of such a person from entering into any contract with state government. Further prohibits other immediate family members of such a person and any legal entity of other family members from entering into any contract with state government unless the contract is awarded by competitive bidding after being advertised and awarded in accordance with law or is competitively negotiated through a request for proposal process or any similar competitive selection process in accordance with law, but specifically excludes consulting services from the exception for competitively let contracts. Provides exceptions. Requires annual disclosure of allowed contracts by May 15th.

Proposed law adds an exception to allow contracts to be a public defender, which provides legal counsel to an indigent person in a criminal proceeding, in accordance with present law (Louisiana Public Defender Act).

(Adds R.S. 42:1113(D)(2)(j))