Proposed legislation requires the Louisiana Public Defender Board to enter into a contract or contracts with the University of Louisiana Monroe to provide certain statewide training to attorneys, investigators, social worker, and staff.

The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) will experience increased SGR expenditures to enter into a contract with the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB). ULM provided an initial estimate of $253,000 in year one to provide continuing legal education training, including the following: $196,000 for personnel costs for one Lead Trainer position, one Administrative Assistant position, and a yet-to-be determined number of stipends for faculty advisors, student workers, and contract attorneys; $13,500 for computer equipment and online event hosting costs; $14,500 for travel costs for in-person training sessions; and $29,000 for software services and promotional costs. Costs may increase in future years for market rate adjustments and the potential expansion of training to other district offices across the state.

The LFO is unable to obtain sufficient information from the LPDB on current training costs; however, to the extent the contract with ULM is lower than current expenditures, there may be a net decrease in state costs as a result of the proposed legislation.

ULM will receive additional but indeterminable SGR revenues as a result of entering into a contract with the LPDB.