

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR: Requests the legislative auditor to provide information relative to the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the legislative auditor to report the information collected from the
3 audits of local and state auditees that assess pre- or post-adjudication costs, fines, and
4 fees.

5 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 87, adopted during the 2019 Regular
6 Session of the Louisiana Legislature, created the Louisiana Commission on Justice System
7 Funding; and

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding studied criminal
9 defendant financial obligations and the use of those obligations to fund and subsidize the
10 functions of the Louisiana court system and determined that the reliance on fines and user
11 fees by courts and local governments jeopardizes public safety; and

12 WHEREAS, Act No. 87 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature
13 enacted R.S. 24:515.2 which requires all local and state auditees that assess, collect, or
14 receive revenue from pre- or post-adjudication costs, fines, and fees to conform to uniform
15 audit reporting requirements regarding their assessments, collections, retentions,
16 disbursements, and receipts; and

17 WHEREAS, this enactment has been in effect for five years and an evaluation of the
18 current status of criminal defendant financial obligations and the use of those obligations to
19 fund and subsidize the functions of the Louisiana court system is warranted.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request that the legislative auditor review

1 the audits obtained pursuant to R.S. 24:515.2 and compile a report that contains the
2 following information:

3 (1) An updated estimate of the extent to which Louisiana's judicial system is funded
4 through criminal fines, fees, and other criminal court costs.

5 (2) An estimate or calculation of resources expended, or costs incurred, for the
6 collection or recoupment of criminal fines, fees, and other criminal court costs, suitable to
7 determine the gross revenue and expenditure estimates of Louisiana's current court-funding
8 model and to estimate the net revenue or expenditures after the costs of collections.

9 (3) A breakdown of any criminal fines, fees, and other criminal court costs which
10 are authorized by Louisiana law but are never, or very infrequently, imposed.

11 (4) An estimate of outstanding debt previously ordered in criminal fines, fees, and
12 other criminal court costs.

13 (5) An updated cost estimate of a court system fully funded without fines, user fees,
14 and other court costs.

15 (6) Research and recommendations on alternative methods of funding Louisiana's
16 judicial system.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor shall submit a written
18 report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than January 30, 2026.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
20 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter
21 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

HR 244 Original

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Requests that the legislative auditor report the information collected from the audits of local and state auditees that assess pre- or post-adjudication costs, fines, and fees to the legislature no later than Jan. 30, 2026.