

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

INDIGENT DEFENSE: Provides relative to the funding of the office of the district public defender in the 19th Judicial District Court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:161.1, relative to the funding of the district public defender in the 19th  
3 Judicial District Court; to provide for funding of the office personnel; to provide for  
4 funding of the expenses of the office; to provide for allocation of responsibility for  
5 funding the office personnel and expenses of the office; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 15:161.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §161.1. District public defender; 19th Judicial District Court; East Baton Rouge  
13 Parish

14 A. In addition to any funding provided by the office of the state public  
15 defender, the office of the district public defender for the 19th Judicial District Court,  
16 East Baton Rouge Parish shall be entitled to an expense allowance for the salaries of  
17 the public defenders, stenographers, clerks, and secretaries, and salaries for special  
18 officers, investigators, and other employees, and an expense allowance for stationery  
19 forms, telephone, transportation, travel, postage, hotel, and other expenses incurred  
20 in the discharge of their official duties.

1           B. The governing authorities of each city within the parish of East Baton  
 2           Rouge and of the parish of East Baton Rouge are hereby authorized to pay from their  
 3           general fund any of the items of expense, as provided by this Section, incurred by the  
 4           district public defender when acting in his official capacity. These expenses shall  
 5           be borne proportionately by the parish and each city, as determined by the respective  
 6           governing authorities.

## 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)]

HB 59 Original

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Marcelle

**Abstract:** Provides for the funding of the district public defender in the 19th Judicial District Court.

Present law provides for the office of the state public defender and district public defenders to provide public defender services in each judicial district throughout the state.

Present law provides that payment for the expenses of the office of the state public defender is made up of state revenue, local government revenue, criminal court funds, grants, gifts, and donations.

Proposed law provides that in addition to funding provided by the office of the state public defender, payment of certain expenses of the district public defender in the 19th Judicial District Court shall be paid by revenue from each city and parish governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish.

(Adds R.S. 15:161.1)