



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 59** HLS 26RS 299
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 12, 2026	11:13 AM	Author: MARCELLE
Dept./Agy.: State Public Defender/EBR Public Defender		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Funding for the 19th JDC District Public Defender		

INDIGENT DEFENSE RE SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to the funding of the office of the district public defender in the 19th Judicial District Court

Current law provides for the Office of the State Public Defender and district public defenders and public defender services in each judicial district throughout the state; provides that payment for 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 19th JDC District Public Defender shall be paid by revenue from each city and parish governing authority of East Baton Rouge; provides that the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish is authorized to pay a sum of not less than \$1 M from its general fund for any items of expense within the proposed law that are incurred by the district public defender when acting in his official capacity (terminates 7/1/28).

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures in the municipal governments of Baker, Zachary, St. George, and Central, and a decrease in Local Funds expenditures in the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge (EBR City-Parish Government) for funding allocated for the discharge of the official duties of staff within the district public defender in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court. The proposed law may impact the amount of funds remitted by municipalities within East Baton Rouge Parish for the district public defender. The exact fiscal impact to each of the municipalities is unknown, because the proposed law is silent as to the methodology used to calculate the proportionate share that each municipality is responsible for contributing to the district public defender.

Cities of Zachary, Baker, Central, and St. George

Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures in the cities of Zachary, Baker, Central, and St. George. The exact fiscal impact to the cities of Zachary, St. George, Baker, and Central is indeterminable, because the proposed law is silent as to the methodology that would be used to calculate the proportionate share that each municipality is responsible for contributing to the district public defender.

The LFO is working with other municipalities to obtain information on the potential impact of the proposed law to their respective local governments. This information will be provided as it becomes available.

City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge

The proposed law may result in a \$1 M decrease in Local Funds expenditures (savings) in the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge (EBR City-Parish Government), to the extent that additional revenue sought by the district public defender is proportionally allocated to all other municipalities within East Baton Rouge Parish. The associated savings projections are based upon an audited financial statement for the period ending FY 25 (with percentages of additional revenue needed allocated proportionally in the percentages indicated below), considering the operational support provided by the City-Parish Government of Baton Rouge-East Baton Rouge Parish. Projections are on the next page.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO]

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]

Those projections are as follows:

Revenues

State Appropriations	\$ 4,562,838
Statutory Fines, Fees, Other	\$ 1,331,576
City-Parish Operational Support.	\$ 1,366,375
Charges for Services	\$ 125,188
Investment Earnings	\$ 23,805
Miscellaneous	\$ 48,819
Total Revenues	\$7,458,601

Expenditures

Personnel and Benefits	\$ 5,461,886
Professional Development	\$ 17,450
Operating Services	\$ 1,077,014
Debt Service	\$ 10,391
Total Expenditures	\$6,566,741

Total OPD Revenues	
(Less Operational Support)	\$6,092,226
Total Expenditures	\$6,566,741
Add'l Revenue Needed	
to be Allocated Proportionally	(\$474,515)

Unincorporated EBR (19.07%)	\$ 90,490
Baker (2.73%)	\$ 12,955
Baton Rouge (49.8%)	\$ 236,308
Central (6.47%)	\$ 30,701
St. George (17.7%)	\$ 83,989
Zachary (4.23%)	\$ 20,072
Additional Revenue Needed	\$ 474,515


Total City of BR & Unincorporated \$ 326,798

Current City-Parish	
Operational Support	\$1,366,375
Less Total BR & Unincorporated	\$ 326,798
Savings to City-Parish Govt.	\$1,039,577

*The City of Baton Rouge-East Baton Rouge Parish government uses population estimates to determine the proportionate share of each municipality's obligation. To the extent that a different methodology is utilized (for instance the total caseload per municipality), the estimates presented here may increase or decrease accordingly. **For FY 27 and FY 28, to the extent that the City of Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish government pays a sum of no less than \$1 M for any expenses incurred by the district public defender, the projected savings may be substantially less than what is indicated.**

Senate Dual Referral Rules
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 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
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