

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 618

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

ECONOMIC DEVELOP/DEPT: Increases certain fees assessed by Louisiana Economic Development

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Amends provision of present law providing that any lease, sublease, or sale of property by the secretary of La. Economic Development requires approval by the commissioner of administration from providing that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget shall have oversight of the purchase process after the lease, sublease, or sale of such property has been initiated to providing that a report of any lease, sublease, or sale of such property shall be submitted annually to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for powers and duties of the secretary of La. Economic Development (LED). Authorizes the secretary to enter into certain transactions involving property, subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) and impose fees and costs for certain purposes in amounts not to exceed specified levels.

Proposed law removes oversight by JLCB of the purchase process and instead requires LED to submit an annual report of the transaction to JLCB.

Proposed law changes LED fees as follows:

- (1) Increases the maximum fee for an advance notification from \$250 to \$350.
- (2) Increases the minimum fee for filing an application from \$500 to \$650 and the maximum fee from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- (3) Increases the maximum fee for a loan guaranty from 4% of the guaranteed loan amount to 5.5% of the guaranteed loan amount.
- (4) Increases the maximum fee for an affidavit of final cost or project completion report from \$250 to \$350.
- (5) Increases the maximum fee for an annual certification report from \$250 to \$350.
- (6) Increases the maximum fee for a contract amendment from \$250 to \$350.
- (7) Increases the maximum fee for a contract renewal from \$250 to \$650.
- (8) Increases the maximum fee for a statutorily required verification report from \$250 per hour for contracted or in-house services to \$350 per hour for those services.
- (9) Increases the maximum hourly rate to which the fee for certain expenditure or expense verification reports obtained through contracted services from \$225 per hour to \$325 per hour for those services and repeals the maximum overall fee cap of \$25,000.
- (10) Increases the maximum fee for an expenditure or expense verification report in connection with an application for certification of tax credits from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Proposed law establishes a new LED fee for any miscellaneous, unique administrative document in a maximum amount of \$350.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of LED to exercise discretion in the collection of fees and reduce or waive fees for small businesses if fees present a financial hardship and are disproportionate to benefits received, and the reduction or waiver is determined to be in the best interest of the state.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 36:104(A)(17)(d), (C) and (D) and 104.1(B)(1) and (2), (D), and (E); Adds R.S. 36:104(E))