

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, EGAN, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LYONS, MURRAY, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WRIGHT, AND YOUNG AND SENATORS BARROW, CARTER, DUPLESSIS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LUNEAU, AND MIZELL

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:161.1, relative to the funding of the district public defender in the
3 Nineteenth Judicial District Court; to provide for funding of the office personnel; to
4 provide for funding of the expenses of the office; to provide for allocation of
5 responsibility for funding the office personnel and expenses of the office; and to
6 provide for related 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; Nineteenth Judicial District Court; East Baton
13 Rouge 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 Nineteenth Judicial District
16 Court, East Baton Rouge Parish shall be entitled to an expense allowance for the
17 salaries of the public defenders, stenographers, clerks, and secretaries, and salaries
18 for special officers, investigators, and other employees, and an expense allowance
19 for stationery forms, telephone, transportation, travel, postage, hotel, and other
20 expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

1 B.(1) The governing authority of the parish of East Baton Rouge is hereby
2 authorized to pay a sum of not less than one million dollars from its general fund for
3 any of the items of expense, as provided by this Section, incurred by the district
4 public defender when acting in his official capacity.

5 (2) This Subsection terminates on July 1, 2028.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____