The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cathy Wells.

DIGEST

<u>Present law</u> requires executive staff, regional directors, secretarial, clerical, and other personnel directly employed in the operations of the LA Public Defender Board be state employees. All other personnel employed or who serve under contract in a district office are considered local employees of the public defender district.

<u>Proposed law</u> removes requirement that non-board employees be local employees of the district.

<u>Present law</u> requires the LA Public Defender Board to meet ten times per year until 2010, and thereafter meet eight times per year. Requires at least three board meetings in parishes outside of East Baton Rouge.

<u>Proposed law</u> reduces the required meetings <u>from</u> eight times per year <u>to</u> four times per year and removes the requirement that three board meetings be held in parishes outside East Baton Rouge.

<u>Present law</u> requires the director of juvenile defender services and the juvenile justice compliance officer to have at least five years of specific experience in the defense of juveniles in delinquency proceedings.

<u>Proposed law</u> removes such experience requirement and requires the director of juvenile defender services and the juvenile justice compliance officer to have experience as a criminal defense attorney or in juvenile law. Further requires the director of juvenile services to assist the state public defender.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 15:147(E), 149.2(B)(1) and (D), 154(A)(2) and (B)(1), and 158(A)(3))