

SENATE BILL NO. 113

BY SENATOR GALLOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:147(E), 149.2(B)(1) and (D), 154(A)(2) and (B)(1), and 158(A)(3), relative to the Louisiana Public Defender Board; to provide for the status of persons who are employed by or serve under contract in a district public defender office; to provide for the number and location of board meetings; to provide for the qualifications and duties of certain employees; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:147(E), 149.2(B)(1) and (D), 154(A)(2) and (B)(1), and 158(A)(3) are amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§147. Powers, duties, responsibilities

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E. The executive staff, regional directors, and secretarial, clerical, and other personnel directly employed in the operations of the board shall be state employees. All other personnel employed or who serve under contract in a district office shall not be state employees ~~and shall be considered local employees of the district.~~ The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget may approve other employees hired pursuant to the Louisiana Public Defender Act as state employees upon recommendation of the board.

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§149.2. Offices; meetings

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B.(1) Except as provided in Subsection C of this Section, in order to effect the implementation of the provisions of this Act, the board shall meet ~~at least ten times per year until 2010, and thereafter meet at least eight~~ **four** times per year.

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D. The board shall conduct a majority of its meetings per year in East Baton Rouge Parish. ~~The board shall conduct at least three meetings per year in parishes other than East Baton Rouge Parish.~~

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§154. Deputy public defender-director of juvenile defender services; qualifications; duties

A. The board shall employ a deputy public defender who shall act as the director of juvenile defender services and shall meet the following qualifications:

* * *

(2) Be an attorney licensed to practice law in the United States with at least five years of ~~specific~~ experience ~~in the defense of juveniles in delinquency proceedings~~ **as a criminal defense attorney or in juvenile law** and if licensed as an attorney in a state other than Louisiana, become licensed as an attorney in this state within one year of being employed by the board.

B. The director of juvenile defender services shall:

(1) ~~Work with representatives of all three branches of state government and other~~ **Assist the state public defender in working with** criminal justice stakeholders, including judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, probation officers, and law enforcement officials to promote sound juvenile justice policies in relation to fair adjudication processes, and placement and treatment of juveniles charged in delinquency proceedings that focus on rehabilitation of the offender.

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§158. Juvenile justice compliance officer

A. The board shall employ a juvenile justice compliance officer who shall meet the following qualifications:

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(3) Be an attorney licensed to practice law in the United States with at least three years of experience **as a criminal defense attorney or in juvenile law**, or possess a master's degree in public administration from an accredited school or

1 university and possess five years of progressively responsible experience conducting
 2 organizational assessments and, if licensed as an attorney in a state other than
 3 Louisiana, become licensed as an attorney in this state within one year of being
 4 employed by the board.

* * *

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 10 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____