

2016 Regular Session

ACT No. 571

HOUSE BILL NO. 1137 (Substitute for House Bill No. 818 by Representative Mack)

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:146 and to enact R.S. 15:162(I), 166, and 167(E), relative to
3 indigent defender services; to amend provisions of the Louisiana Public Defender
4 Act; to provide for membership of the Louisiana Public Defender Board; to reduce
5 the number of members on the board; to provide with respect to the powers and
6 duties of the board; to provide relative to member qualifications; to provide with
7 respect to the dispersal of funds; to provide with respect to the delivery of indigent
8 defender services; to provide definitions; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 15:146 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:162(I), 166,
11 and 167(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §146. Louisiana Public Defender Board

13 A.(1) There is hereby created and established as a state agency within the
14 office of the governor the Louisiana Public Defender Board to provide for the
15 supervision, administration, and delivery of a statewide public defender system,
16 which ~~must~~ shall deliver uniform public defender services in all courts in this state.
17 The board shall be a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued.

18 (2) The board and its agents and employees shall be subject to the Code of
19 Governmental Ethics, the law relative to public records and open meetings, the law
20 relative to public bid and procurement, and all other provisions of law applicable to
21 state agencies.

22 (3) ~~Members of the Indigent Defense Assistance Board serving on August~~
23 ~~15, 2007, shall continue to serve as members of the Louisiana Public Defender Board~~

1 ~~without limitation of their term.~~ The two members of the Louisiana Public Defender
2 Board appointed by the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the member
3 appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana State Law Institute's Children's Code
4 Committee, the member appointed by the President of the Louisiana Chapter of the
5 Louis A. Martinet Society, the member appointed by the Louisiana Interchurch
6 Conference, the two members appointed by the governor and the four members
7 appointed by the governor and nominated by the four law schools, as formerly
8 provided in this Section, shall terminate their service on August 1, 2016.

9 (4) To the extent practicable, the board shall be comprised of members who
10 reflect the racial and gender makeup of the general population of the state, and who
11 are geographically representative of all portions of the state.

12 (5) When a vacancy occurs, whether by expiration of a term, resignation, or
13 other event, the board staff shall submit to the appointing entity a list identifying the
14 residency of the current board members by congressional district, and request that,
15 to the extent possible, the entity make the appointment from the residents of under-
16 represented districts.

17 B.(1) The board shall consist of ~~fifteen~~ eleven members.

18 (2) Persons appointed to the board shall have significant experience in the
19 defense of criminal proceedings or shall have demonstrated a strong commitment to
20 quality representation in indigent defense matters. No person shall be appointed to
21 the board ~~that~~ who has received compensation to be an elected judge, elected official,
22 judicial officer, prosecutor, law enforcement official, indigent defense provider, or
23 employees of all such persons, within a two-year period prior to appointment. No
24 active part-time, full-time, contract or court-appointed indigent defense provider, or
25 active employees of such persons, may be appointed to serve on the board as a voting
26 member. No person having an official responsibility to the board, administratively
27 or financially, or their employee shall be appointed to the board ~~until two years have~~
28 ~~expired from the time the person held such position and the date of appointment to~~
29 ~~the board~~ during their term of office. The majority of board members shall be
30 current members of the Louisiana State Bar Association. Representatives of the

1 client community shall not be prohibited from serving as voting members of the
 2 board. ~~With the exception of mandatory affiliation of the Louisiana State Bar~~
 3 ~~Association, no state or local association of lawyers shall have more than one active~~
 4 ~~board member or officer as a voting member of the Louisiana Public Defender~~
 5 ~~Board.~~

6 (3) The members shall be selected as follows:

7 (a) The governor shall appoint ~~two~~ five members, one from each appellate
 8 court district, and shall designate the chairman.

9 (b) The five members shall be appointed from a list of three nominees
 10 submitted to the governor by a majority of the district public defenders providing
 11 public defender services in each appellate district.

12 ~~(b)~~(c) The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana shall appoint ~~two~~
 13 four members, one member shall be a juvenile justice advocate; ~~the other~~ one
 14 member shall be a retired judge with criminal law experience; and two members
 15 shall be at large.

16 ~~(c)~~(d) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
 17 Representatives shall each appoint one member.

18 (d) ~~The governor shall appoint one member representing the Louisiana State~~
 19 ~~University Paul M. Hebert Law Center who is an active employee, retired employee~~
 20 ~~or has an academic association with the Paul M. Hebert Law Center.~~

21 ~~(e)~~ The governor shall appoint one member representing the Loyola
 22 University School of Law who is an active employee, retired employee or has an
 23 academic association with the Loyola University School of Law.

24 ~~(f)~~ The governor shall appoint one member representing the Southern
 25 University Law Center who is an active employee, retired employee or has an
 26 academic association with the Southern University Law Center.

27 ~~(g)~~ The governor shall appoint one member representing the Tulane
 28 University School of Law who is an active employee, retired employee or has an
 29 academic association with the Tulane University School of Law.

1 ~~(h) The president of the Louisiana State Bar Association shall appoint two~~
 2 ~~members.~~

3 ~~(i) The president of the Louisiana Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Society~~
 4 ~~shall appoint one member.~~

5 ~~(j) The chairman of the Louisiana State Law Institute's Children Code~~
 6 ~~Committee shall appoint one member.~~

7 ~~(k) The executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference shall~~
 8 ~~appoint one member.~~

9 ~~(h)~~(e) All appointments to the board shall be subject to confirmation by the
 10 Senate.

11 (4) A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original
 12 appointment.

13 (5) Members of the board shall serve staggered terms of four years, ~~after~~
 14 ~~initial terms as follows:~~

15 ~~(a) Two members shall be immediately appointed to a four-year term by the~~
 16 ~~chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.~~

17 ~~(b) One member shall be immediately appointed to a two-year term by the~~
 18 ~~governor representing the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.~~

19 ~~(c) One member shall be immediately appointed to a three-year term by the~~
 20 ~~governor representing the Loyola University School of Law.~~

21 ~~(d) One member shall be immediately appointed to a three-year term by the~~
 22 ~~governor representing the Southern University Law Center.~~

23 ~~(e) One member shall be immediately appointed to a four-year term by the~~
 24 ~~governor representing the Tulane University School of Law.~~

25 ~~(f) Upon the first expiration of the term or resignation by a current appointee~~
 26 ~~of the governor, one member shall be appointed to a four-year term by the executive~~
 27 ~~director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.~~

28 ~~(g) Upon the first expiration of the term or resignation by a current appointee~~
 29 ~~of the president of the Senate, one member shall be appointed to a two-year term by~~
 30 ~~the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association.~~

1 ~~(h) Upon the second expiration of the term or resignation by a current~~
2 ~~appointee of the president of the Senate, one member shall be appointed to a four-~~
3 ~~year term by the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association.~~

4 ~~(i) Upon the third expiration of the term or resignation by a current appointee~~
5 ~~of the president of the Senate, one member shall be appointed to a three-year term~~
6 ~~by the president of the Senate.~~

7 ~~(j) Upon the first expiration of the term or resignation by a current appointee~~
8 ~~of the speaker of the House of Representatives, one member shall be appointed to a~~
9 ~~two-year term by the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet~~
10 ~~Society.~~

11 ~~(k) Upon the second expiration of the term or resignation by a current~~
12 ~~appointee of the speaker of the House of Representatives, one member shall be~~
13 ~~appointed to a four-year term by the chairman of the Louisiana State Law Institute's~~
14 ~~Children Code Committee.~~

15 ~~(l) Upon the third expiration of the term or resignation by a current appointee~~
16 ~~of the speaker of the House of Representatives, one member shall be appointed to a~~
17 ~~three-year term by the speaker of the House of Representatives.~~

18 ~~(6) In addition there shall be two ex officio, nonvoting members of the board~~
19 ~~who shall not be counted or be permitted to be counted for purposes of the number~~
20 ~~of members necessary to take board action or the number of members necessary to~~
21 ~~establish a quorum. In all other respects they have all the duties, authority,~~
22 ~~requirements, and benefits, except per diem, of any other board member. Each of the~~
23 ~~following organizations shall appoint one such member:~~

24 ~~(a) The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.~~

25 ~~(b) The Louisiana Public Defender's Association.~~

26 ~~C. Nothing in this Section shall limit the length of the term for any board~~
27 ~~members serving on the Indigent Defense Assistance Board on August 15, 2007,~~
28 ~~except that they may be removed for just cause, or as provided in Subsection D of~~
29 ~~this Section. However, members who have not previously been confirmed by the~~
30 ~~Senate, shall be subject to Senate confirmation.~~

1 Subsection shall not apply to statutorily dedicated funds or funds received through
2 the awarding of grants.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____