

# SB 256 / Act 15

## Legislative Intent Report

2026 Regular Session | Consolidation of the Orleans Parish clerk-of-court offices

PREPARED FOR  
Counsel

PREPARED BY  
Legitas AI

AS OF  
2026-07-20

STATUS  
Public demonstration report

### EXECUTIVE ANSWER

Act 15 creates one Orleans Parish clerk-of-court structure. It abolishes the separate criminal clerk's office at the end of May 3, 2026. It transfers that office's authority, records, money, pending actions, and property to the civil clerk.

The original bill proposed one clerk but did not contain the final express abolition and transfer section. Adopted House Amendment 4162 supplied that mechanism. Adopted Senate Amendment 1760 supplied the employee protection, temporary-labor authority, and signature effective date.

The legislature rejected three material alternatives: a Senate proposal to delay the change to 2030, a Senate proposal for express management safeguards and state transition funding, and a House proposal to delay abolition to 2030. Rejection shows that the proposed language did not become law. It does not prove each legislator's motive.

### SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This report organizes public legislative materials for counsel. It is research work product, not a legal opinion or a substitute for independent legal analysis.

The transcripts are automated, non-certified research transcripts. The official recordings control. Speaker claims are identified as claims and are not treated as adjudicated facts.

A digest is a navigation aid. The official digest disclaimer states that a digest is not part of the law and is not proof or indicia of legislative intent.

The March 31 committee transcript is automated and non-certified. The official recording controls.

### CONTINUE THE RECORD ONLINE

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[legitas.ai/records/sb256-act15](https://legitas.ai/records/sb256-act15)



SCAN TO REVIEW AND  
REQUEST

## The Act ends the separate criminal clerk's office and transfers its work

Question presented. What did the legislature enact through SB 256, and what does the complete record show about the transition, funding, employee protection, office authority, and rejected alternatives?

Short answer. The enacted text controls. It keeps the incumbent criminal clerk's current term intact, but it abolishes that office at the end of May 3, 2026. All legal authority, functions, duties, records, money, actions, and property then transfer to the civil clerk. That clerk becomes the clerk of court for Orleans Parish.

The final text uses more than one transition clock. Legal control transfers at the end of May 3. Covered employees receive protection through January 15, 2027 except for good cause. The consolidated clerk can use unrestricted clerk funds for temporary employees or contractors through June 30, 2027.

- Use Act 15 and the enrolled bill for the controlling rule.
- Use adopted amendments to trace how the controlling rule changed.
- Use rejected amendments to identify language that did not enter the Act.
- Use timestamp-linked testimony as context. Do not turn a speaker's claim into a legislative fact.

### BOTTOM LINE

**The final conversion mechanism came late. House Amendment 4162 added the express abolition, transfer, May 3 date, reference redirection, and repeals on April 23. The Senate accepted those terms on April 29. The governor signed the Act on April 30.**

## Record at a glance

49

### OFFICIAL SOURCES

Documents, journals, votes, agendas, and fiscal notes

8

### MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Committee and floor recordings

3,733

### LINKED TURNS

Each turn opens the official video at that second

67,875

### TRANSCRIPT WORDS

Focused SB 256 transcript package

## Enacted rule

The Act supplies the legal rule. The legislative record explains how that rule took shape.

| Element         | Enacted rule                                                                                                                                                              | Record significance                                                                                                                                       | Support                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Unified office  | The Act provides one clerk of court for the Orleans Parish civil and criminal district-court functions.                                                                   | The Act ends the separate statutory structure for the criminal clerk and places both functions under the continuing civil clerk.                          | Act 15 §§1-6 [S013]; Enrolled bill [S015]     |
| Incumbent term  | The Act does not shorten the current criminal clerk's term.                                                                                                               | The office ends at the end of May 3 2026 before any next term can start.                                                                                  | Act 15 §4(A) [S013]                           |
| Transfer        | When the criminal clerk's office ends, all authority, functions, duties, records, money, actions, and property transfer to the civil clerk.                               | The transfer is broad and immediate. After the transfer the civil clerk is the clerk of court for Orleans Parish.                                         | Act 15 §4(B)-(D) [S013]                       |
| Employees       | An employee of the criminal clerk cannot be discharged before January 15 2027 except for good cause.                                                                      | The protection is temporary. It does not state that every job must continue after that date.                                                              | Act 15 §2 [S013]; Amendment 1760 [S006]       |
| Temporary labor | The consolidated clerk can use unrestricted clerk funds for temporary employees or contractors through June 30 2027.                                                      | This term supplies short-term transition capacity without a direct state appropriation in the Act.                                                        | Act 15 §2 [S013]; Amendment 1760 [S006]       |
| Funding split   | The Act changes the listed distribution from 50 percent and 50 percent to 40 percent for the clerk salary fund and 60 percent for the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund. | The fiscal note estimates a recurring shift in public costs and states that the Act refers to but does not create the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund. | Act 15 §3 [S013]; Enrolled fiscal note [S022] |
| Repeals         | The Act repeals R.S. 13:1031, 1033, 1371, 1371.1, and 1378.                                                                                                               | The repeals remove statutes tied to the former separate-office structure.                                                                                 | Act 15 §6 [S013]                              |
| Effective date  | The Act took effect when the governor signed it on April 30 2026.                                                                                                         | The office-abolition point followed at the end of May 3 2026. The text therefore supplied a four-day statutory transition interval.                       | Act 15 §7 [S013]                              |

Source identifiers resolve to the complete official-source index.

## Strongest legislative-intent findings

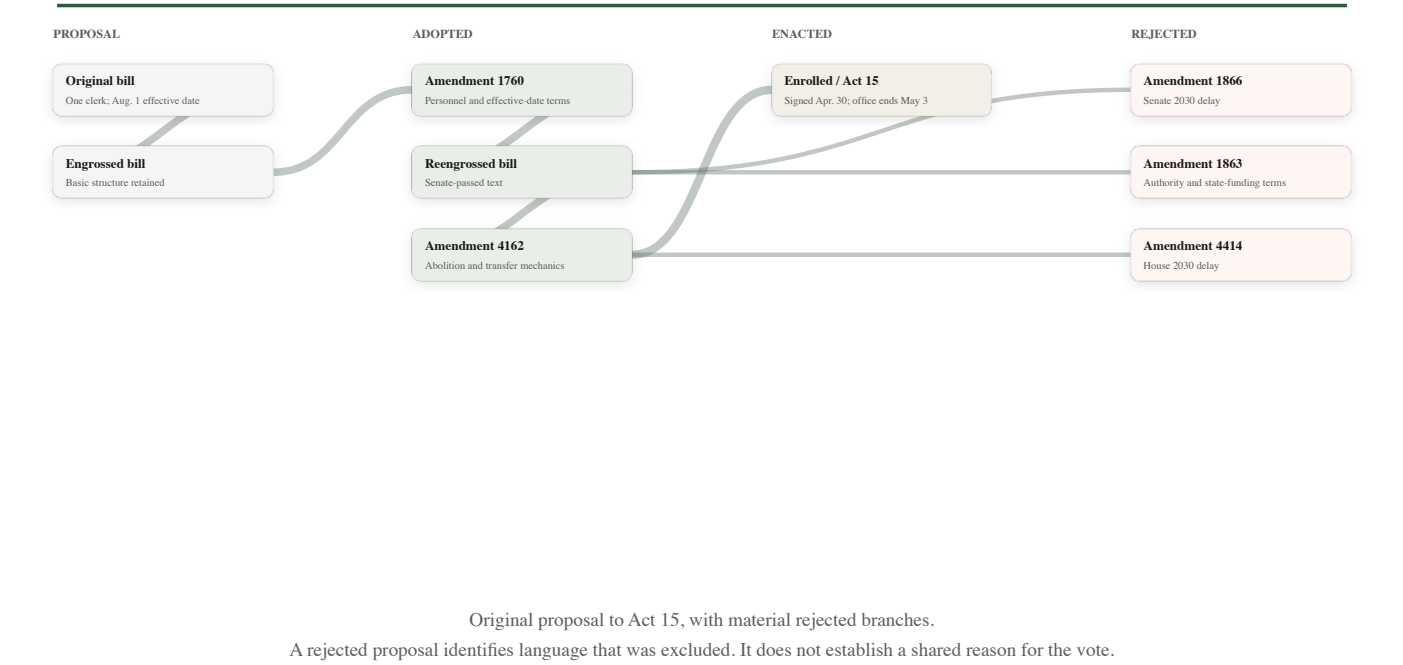
| Evidence class         | Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Support                                                                           | Weight                                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Official text          | Act 15 creates one Orleans Parish clerk structure and abolishes the criminal clerk's office at the end of May 3 2026.                                                                                      | Act 15 §§1 and 4 [S013]                                                           | Controlling text                                        |
| Official text          | The Act transfers the former criminal clerk's legal authority, records, money, pending actions, and property to the civil clerk.                                                                           | Act 15 §4 [S013]                                                                  | Controlling text                                        |
| Official text          | The employee-retention rule and temporary-labor authority came from adopted Senate Amendment 1760.                                                                                                         | Amendment 1760 [S006]; reengrossed bill [S017]; Act 15 [S013]                     | Strong version sequence                                 |
| Official text          | Adopted House Amendment 4162 supplied the express abolition, transfer, May 3 date, reference redirection, and statutory repeals.                                                                           | Amendment 4162 [S003]; enrolled bill [S015]                                       | Strong version sequence                                 |
| Transcript observation | The sponsor presented consolidation as an efficiency and funding measure. He did not have a completed implementation study at hand during the first committee hearing.                                     | Senate Judiciary A [T1] <a href="#">04:27:15</a> and <a href="#">04:32:11</a>     | Contemporaneous sponsor explanation                     |
| Transcript observation | The first committee hearing identified uncertainty about the transition date. The sponsor initially described a later transition, while the chair noted that the bill then had the default effective date. | Senate Judiciary A [T1] <a href="#">04:36:40</a>                                  | Strong evidence of an identified drafting issue         |
| Transcript observation | The committee record includes substantial opposition. The chair reported 26 red cards and 138 opposition emails before the final motions.                                                                  | Senate Judiciary A [T1] <a href="#">05:38:15</a>                                  | Official proceeding observation                         |
| Official disposition   | The Senate rejected language that would have preserved express management authority, required state transition appropriations, and restored the 50/50 funding split.                                       | Amendment 1863 [S007]; Senate vote [S046]; [T4] <a href="#">01:21:33-01:27:42</a> | Defines language not enacted; does not prove motive     |
| Official disposition   | Both chambers rejected proposals that would have delayed the office abolition until 2030.                                                                                                                  | Amendment 1866 [S008]; Amendment 4414 [S004]; votes [S047] and [S043]             | Strong evidence that the delayed dates were not enacted |
| Legitas AI inference   | The enacted transition combines a fast legal transfer with a longer personnel-protection period. The text treats legal control and workforce adjustment as separate timelines.                             | Act 15 §§2, 4, and 7 [S013]                                                       | Strong text-based inference                             |
| Legitas AI inference   | The enacted structure favors local clerk-fund financing over a new express state-transition appropriation.                                                                                                 | Act 15 §§2-3 [S013]; rejected Amendment 1863 [S007]; fiscal note [S022]           | Strong sequence-based inference                         |
| Open question          | The record does not resolve every operational cost, systems-integration task, or staffing decision after January 15 2027.                                                                                  | Enrolled fiscal note [S022]; Act 15 [S013]                                        | Requires implementation evidence                        |

Official text, transcript observations, Legitas AI inferences, and open questions remain separate.

# How the enacted transition took shape

## How the enacted transition took shape

The main line shows adopted changes. The rejected lane shows alternatives that did not enter the Act.



05.1 | VERSION RECORD

## Version evolution

| Version               | Date       | Operative shape                                                                                                      | Material change                                                                         | Support                                                       |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Original              | 2026-03-02 | One-clerk structure; administrative and funding changes; August 1 2026 effective date.                               | Baseline proposal. It did not contain the later express abolition and transfer section. | Original bill [S016]                                          |
| Engrossed             | 2026-04-01 | One-clerk structure after committee and technical action.                                                            | Retained the basic proposal before the personnel and transition terms were added.       | Engrossed bill [S014]                                         |
| Senate Amendment 1760 | 2026-04-07 | Added temporary employee protection, temporary labor authority, and a governor-signature effective date.             | Created the enacted workforce transition rules and advanced the effective date.         | Amendment 1760 [S006]; [T3] <a href="#">02:05:29-02:07:18</a> |
| Reengrossed           | 2026-04-08 | Included the adopted Senate transition terms.                                                                        | Became the House committee's starting text.                                             | Reengrossed bill [S017]                                       |
| House Amendment 4162  | 2026-04-23 | Added express office abolition, complete transfer mechanics, May 3 2026 timing, reference redirection, and repeals.  | Supplied the final legal conversion mechanism.                                          | Amendment 4162 [S003]; [T6] <a href="#">01:14:34-01:18:22</a> |
| Enrolled / Act 15     | 2026-04-30 | One continuing clerk; express abolition and transfer; temporary employee protection; revised funding split; repeals. | The governor signed this text. It controls.                                             | Enrolled bill [S015]; Act 15 [S013]                           |

## Amendment record

| No.  | Sponsor / result                    | Proposal                                                                                                                                                                 | Effect on final Act                                                 | Support                                                                    |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1602 | Gregory A. Miller — adopted         | Legislative Bureau technical amendment.                                                                                                                                  | Technical change became part of the engrossed sequence.             | Amendment 1602 [S010]; [T3] <a href="#">02:02:34</a>                       |
| 1741 | Royce Duplessis — withdrawn         | Proposed changes were withdrawn before disposition.                                                                                                                      | The proposal has no enacted effect.                                 | Amendment 1741 [S005]                                                      |
| 1760 | Jay Morris — adopted                | Protect criminal-clerk employees until January 15 2027; allow temporary labor through June 30 2027; make the Act effective on signature.                                 | These transition terms were enacted.                                | Amendment 1760 [S006]; [T3] <a href="#">02:05:29-02:07:18</a>              |
| 1852 | Jay Morris — adopted                | Senate floor Bureau note.                                                                                                                                                | Technical Bureau change became part of the reengrossed sequence.    | Bureau note 1852 [S009]                                                    |
| 1866 | Royce Duplessis — rejected 11-23    | Delay the effective date to May 4 2030.                                                                                                                                  | No 2030 Senate delay was enacted.                                   | Amendment 1866 [S008]; vote [S047]; [T4] <a href="#">01:19:00-01:21:14</a> |
| 1863 | Royce Duplessis — rejected 12-24    | Preserve express clerk management powers; require state transition appropriations; bar forced use of clerk funds; restore the 50/50 distribution; change employee terms. | None of these proposed safeguards or funding terms entered the Act. | Amendment 1863 [S007]; vote [S046]; [T4] <a href="#">01:21:33-01:27:42</a> |
| 4162 | Dixon Wallace McMakin — adopted     | Add express abolition and transfer terms, the end-of-May-3 date, redirection of legal references, and repeals.                                                           | This amendment supplied the enacted conversion mechanism.           | Amendment 4162 [S003]; [T6] <a href="#">01:14:34-01:18:22</a>              |
| 4414 | Kyle M. Green, Jr. — rejected 31-63 | Delay abolition of the criminal clerk's office until 11:59 p.m. on May 5 2030.                                                                                           | The House kept the 2026 abolition date.                             | Amendment 4414 [S004]; vote [S043]; [T6] <a href="#">02:30:49-02:34:51</a> |

Technical items are listed for completeness. The material transition terms came from Amendments 1760 and 4162.

## How to read the eight-proceeding record

The record includes eight official committee and floor proceedings. The March 31 Senate Judiciary A discussion of SB 256 appears in Part 2 of the official recording.

The focused transcript keeps every turn that overlaps a verified SB 256 span. It excludes an early false-positive bill-number reading in which the chair immediately corrected SB 256 to SB 217.

Every green timestamp in this report opens the official Louisiana Legislature player at that second. The companion transcript PDF has an active official-video link on every cited turn.

RELIABILITY RULE

The official audio, official text, journals, and vote records control when automated transcript text differs.

07.1 | 2026-03-31

## Senate Judiciary A - Part 2

Material SB 256 span: 04:27:11-05:42:26 [T1].

| Time                     | Speaker / event                                                   | Record significance                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">04:27:11</a> | Chair calls SB 256.                                               | Start of the substantive committee record in Part 2.                                                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">04:27:15</a> | Sen. Jay Morris presents the bill as a consolidation measure.     | The sponsor links the proposal to one statewide norm and to administrative and funding efficiency. Financial amounts stated in testimony remain speaker assertions.                     |
| <a href="#">04:32:11</a> | The sponsor answers questions about prefilng implementation work. | He states that he had no study at his fingertips and had not held implementation meetings with the criminal clerk before filing.                                                        |
| <a href="#">04:36:40</a> | The committee tests the transition date.                          | The sponsor describes a later transition. The chair notes that the bill then had the default effective date. This exchange identifies a drafting issue that later amendments addressed. |
| <a href="#">04:39:30</a> | The civil clerk begins testimony.                                 | The committee receives the continuing officeholder's operational position.                                                                                                              |
| <a href="#">05:04:02</a> | Clerk-elect Calvin Duncan begins testimony.                       | The committee receives the affected clerk-elect's opposition and transition concerns.                                                                                                   |
| <a href="#">05:13:36</a> | Duncan describes a conversation with the sponsor.                 | His account that the sponsor said the measure was what the governor wanted is a speaker assertion. It is not an official finding of executive motive.                                   |
| <a href="#">05:38:15</a> | The chair states the opposition count.                            | The chair reports 26 red cards and 138 opposition emails.                                                                                                                               |
| <a href="#">05:38:50</a> | The sponsor closes.                                               | The sponsor returns to consolidation and funding rationale.                                                                                                                             |
| <a href="#">05:41:07</a> | Members make deferral and favorable-report motions.               | The committee chooses between stopping the bill and reporting it.                                                                                                                       |
| <a href="#">05:41:52</a> | The clerk calls the roll.                                         | The official committee vote record controls the member-level result.                                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">05:42:15</a> | The chair announces a favorable report.                           | SB 256 advances 4-3. The deferral motion was not put to a separate recorded vote.                                                                                                       |

## Senate floor record

| Date / time                            | Proceeding                                                                                | Record effect                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-04-01<br><a href="#">00:51:12</a> | Committee report is read.                                                                 | SB 256 is reported favorably, ordered engrossed, and passed to third reading.                                     |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:02:34</a> | The Senate takes up SB 256 and Bureau amendments.                                         | The bill enters substantive floor consideration.                                                                  |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:03:14</a> | The sponsor explains the one-clerk proposal.                                              | The sponsor repeats the consolidation and efficiency rationale.                                                   |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:05:29</a> | Amendment 1760 is presented.                                                              | The amendment supplies the enacted personnel protection, temporary-labor authority, and signature effective date. |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:05:42</a> | The sponsor addresses election and transition concerns.                                   | The exchange explains why a transition provision was added. The enacted text controls its exact scope.            |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:07:18</a> | The Senate adopts Amendment 1760.                                                         | The personnel and effective-date changes enter the bill.                                                          |
| 2026-04-07<br><a href="#">02:08:48</a> | The sponsor returns the bill to the calendar.                                             | Final Senate action is deferred to the next day.                                                                  |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:15:50</a> | The Senate resumes SB 256.                                                                | Start of the final Senate debate.                                                                                 |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:19:00</a> | Amendment 1866 proposes a May 4 2030 date.                                                | The proposal would delay the legal change by four years.                                                          |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:21:14</a> | The Senate rejects Amendment 1866, 11-23.                                                 | The bill retains the earlier transition.                                                                          |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:21:33</a> | Amendment 1863 proposes authority, staffing, state-funding, and 50/50 distribution terms. | The proposal collects the principal operational safeguards offered on the Senate floor.                           |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:27:42</a> | The Senate rejects Amendment 1863, 12-24.                                                 | Those terms do not enter the bill.                                                                                |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:56:04</a> | The sponsor closes debate.                                                                | The sponsor asks the Senate to pass the consolidation measure.                                                    |
| 2026-04-08<br><a href="#">01:58:06</a> | The presiding officer announces final passage, 25-11.                                     | SB 256 passes the Senate.                                                                                         |
| 2026-04-28<br><a href="#">00:41:02</a> | An opposition letter is entered for the record.                                           | The Lower 9th Ward Voters Coalition's opposition becomes part of the procedural record.                           |
| 2026-04-28<br><a href="#">01:36:33</a> | The bill is returned to the calendar.                                                     | Concurrence is delayed one day.                                                                                   |
| 2026-04-29<br><a href="#">00:49:22</a> | The Senate takes up House amendments.                                                     | Start of concurrence consideration.                                                                               |
| 2026-04-29<br><a href="#">00:49:49</a> | The sponsor explains the House changes.                                                   | He describes the explicit abolition and transfer terms.                                                           |
| 2026-04-29<br><a href="#">00:51:21</a> | The sponsor moves concurrence.                                                            | The Senate is asked to accept the House conversion language.                                                      |
| 2026-04-29<br><a href="#">00:51:55</a> | The Senate concurs, 25-11.                                                                | The House amendment sequence enters the enrolled bill.                                                            |

## House Judiciary Committee

Material SB 256 span: [00:02:00-03:10:32](#) [T5].

| Time                     | Speaker / event                                                             | Record significance                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">00:02:00</a> | House Judiciary begins SB 256.                                              | Start of a hearing that runs for more than three hours.                                                                                   |
| <a href="#">00:02:19</a> | The sponsor presents the consolidation purpose.                             | The sponsor restates the statewide one-clerk norm and efficiency rationale.                                                               |
| <a href="#">00:08:59</a> | The sponsor states his legal position on abolition of the statutory office. | This is a speaker's legal position. It is not a court ruling on validity or constitutionality.                                            |
| <a href="#">00:16:42</a> | Testimony gives an election-percentage claim.                               | The statement is testimony. The official election record must control if the percentage matters in later analysis.                        |
| <a href="#">01:06:59</a> | Clerk-elect Calvin Duncan testifies.                                        | The committee receives extended testimony about the elected office                                                                        |
| <a href="#">03:10:28</a> | The committee completes its roll call.                                      | The official record shows a favorable report by 8-5 with one member not voting.                                                           |
| <a href="#">03:10:32</a> | The chair announces the result.                                             | The bill advances to the House floor. Earlier motions included a 10-3-1 three-minute rule and a failed 5-9-1 involuntary-deferral motion. |

## House floor

Material SB 256 span: [01:11:39-03:39:27](#) [T6].

| Time                     | Speaker / event                                                        | Record significance                                                                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">01:11:39</a> | The House calls SB 256.                                                | Start of the House floor record.                                                             |
| <a href="#">01:11:59</a> | Rep. McMakin presents the bill for the House.                          | The House carrier explains the consolidation proposal.                                       |
| <a href="#">01:14:34</a> | McMakin presents Amendment 4162.                                       | This is the material House amendment that supplied the final conversion mechanism.           |
| <a href="#">01:15:52</a> | The carrier explains express abolition of the criminal clerk's office. | The amendment converts the general one-clerk proposal into an express office-abolition rule. |
| <a href="#">01:16:25</a> | The carrier explains the transfer.                                     | The amendment moves the former office's authority                                            |
| <a href="#">01:17:17</a> | The carrier states the end-of-May-3 date.                              | The date becomes part of the enacted transition.                                             |
| <a href="#">01:18:22</a> | The House adopts Amendment 4162.                                       | The abolition and transfer terms enter the bill.                                             |
| <a href="#">02:30:49</a> | Rep. Green presents Amendment 4414.                                    | The amendment would delay abolition until May 5 2030.                                        |
| <a href="#">02:31:51</a> | Green explains the delayed date.                                       | The House considers a longer transition alternative.                                         |
| <a href="#">02:34:18</a> | The bill carrier opposes the delay.                                    | The competing positions are stated on the floor.                                             |
| <a href="#">02:34:51</a> | The House rejects Amendment 4414, 31-63.                               | The House keeps the 2026 abolition date.                                                     |
| <a href="#">03:36:55</a> | The carrier closes debate.                                             | The House proceeds to final passage.                                                         |
| <a href="#">03:39:07</a> | The clerk completes the final roll call.                               | The official roll-call document controls the count.                                          |
| <a href="#">03:39:21</a> | The House passes SB 256, 63-28.                                        | The bill returns to the Senate with House amendments.                                        |

## Votes and dispositions

| Date       | Body or motion                       | Result         | Record effect                                                      | Support                                                           |
|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-03-31 | Senate Judiciary A favorable report  | 4-3            | The committee reports SB 256 favorably.                            | Committee vote [S045]; [T1] <a href="#">05:41:52-05:42:15</a>     |
| 2026-04-08 | Senate Amendment 1866                | Rejected 11-23 | No 2030 Senate delay.                                              | Vote [S047]; [T4] <a href="#">01:21:14</a>                        |
| 2026-04-08 | Senate Amendment 1863                | Rejected 12-24 | No express state transition appropriation or restored 50/50 split. | Vote [S046]; [T4] <a href="#">01:27:42</a>                        |
| 2026-04-08 | Senate final passage                 | 25-11          | The Senate passes the reengrossed proposal.                        | Vote [S049]; [T4] <a href="#">01:58:06</a>                        |
| 2026-04-16 | House Judiciary three-minute rule    | 10-3-1         | The committee limits testimony time.                               | House committee record [S041-S042]                                |
| 2026-04-16 | House Judiciary involuntary deferral | Failed 5-9-1   | The committee does not stop the bill.                              | House committee record [S041-S042]                                |
| 2026-04-16 | House Judiciary favorable report     | 8-5-1          | The committee advances SB 256.                                     | House committee record [S041-S042]; [T5] <a href="#">03:10:28</a> |
| 2026-04-23 | House Amendment 4414                 | Rejected 31-63 | No 2030 House delay.                                               | Vote [S043]; [T6] <a href="#">02:34:51</a>                        |
| 2026-04-23 | House final passage                  | 63-28          | The House passes SB 256 with Amendment 4162.                       | Vote [S044]; [T6] <a href="#">03:39:21</a>                        |
| 2026-04-29 | Senate concurrence                   | 25-11          | The Senate accepts the House abolition and transfer language.      | Vote [S048]; [T8] <a href="#">00:51:55</a>                        |

Official vote documents control the counts. Transcript announcements provide navigation and context.

## Final fiscal note and implementation limits

| Topic                | Official fiscal finding                                                                                                            | Interpretive limit                                                                                        | Support                               |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Local spending       | Estimated annual local expenditure decrease of about \$233,000.                                                                    | The note is an estimate. It does not require a specific staffing reduction.                               | Enrolled fiscal note [S022]           |
| Statutory dedication | Estimated annual decrease of about \$27,300.                                                                                       | The estimate depends on the fee-distribution provisions and actual collections.                           | Enrolled fiscal note [S022]           |
| State-to-local shift | Estimated shift of about \$1.18 million in annual state general-fund spending to local sources beginning in fiscal year 2027-2028. | This is a projected funding shift                                                                         | not a direct appropriation in Act 15. |
| Fee distribution     | The Act changes the listed distribution from 50/50 to 40/60.                                                                       | The fiscal note states that the Act refers to but does not create the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund. | Act 15 §3 [S013]; fiscal note [S022]  |
| Staffing             | The Act protects covered employees until January 15 2027 except for good cause.                                                    | Neither the Act nor the fiscal note orders a staff reduction after that date.                             | Act 15 §2 [S013]; fiscal note [S022]  |
| Transition costs     | Integration, rebranding, information systems, and records work may create costs.                                                   | The official record does not quantify every one-time or recurring implementation cost.                    | Enrolled fiscal note [S022]           |

## Interpretive considerations

- Start with Act 15. The text controls the office structure, transfer, employee protection, funding provisions, repeals, and dates.
- Treat April 23 as the key drafting point for the express conversion mechanism. House Amendment 4162 added the terms that made the abolition and transfer explicit.

- Do not read rejected Amendment 1863 as enacted clerk authority or an enacted state-funding duty. The Senate rejected that text.
- Do not read the rejected 2030 amendments as evidence of a collective motive. They prove only that those proposed dates did not enter the Act.
- Treat sponsor statements about savings, office finances, constitutional power, or executive preference as speaker positions. Check each claim against primary financial, election, or judicial evidence if it matters in a dispute.
- The Act's timelines are different. Legal control shifts in May 2026. Employee protection extends into January 2027. Temporary-labor authority extends through June 2027.
- The fiscal note identifies uncertain transition costs. It does not settle every systems, records, staffing, or contract issue.

#### **PRACTICAL USE**

**Use the oral record to explain the enacted mechanism. Do not use it to add a power, duty, appropriation, or delay that the legislature rejected or omitted.**

## Record completeness

| Record category             | Status   | Included                                                                                                | Reliability note                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Official bill documents     | Complete | Original, engrossed, reengrossed, enrolled, and Act text.                                               | Act 15 and the enrolled text control.                                           |
| Amendments                  | Complete | All official amendment documents, Bureau items, and the House amendment summary found on the bill page. | Adopted and rejected dispositions are kept separate.                            |
| Fiscal notes                | Complete | Three official fiscal notes.                                                                            | The enrolled fiscal note is the best final fiscal source.                       |
| Journals                    | Complete | Sixteen linked Senate and House journal records.                                                        | Journals control formal action when transcript text is unclear.                 |
| Votes and committee records | Complete | Nine official vote or committee-action records.                                                         | Official roll calls control over automated transcript wording.                  |
| Agendas                     | Complete | Senate Judiciary A and House Judiciary agendas.                                                         | Agendas establish scheduled consideration; recordings establish what occurred.  |
| Material proceedings        | Complete | Eight proceedings with verified SB 256 spans.                                                           | Each cited transcript turn links to the official recording at that second.      |
| March 31 Judiciary A Part 2 | Complete | The full official Part 2 committee record and focused SB 256 transcript are included.                   | The transcript is automated and non-certified. The official recording controls. |

The record is complete for the enacted text, amendments, journals, recorded votes, and eight material proceedings.

## Complete official-source index

| ID   | Category     | Official source                                                           | Role                                                                            | Link                        |
|------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| S001 | agendas      | 2026-03-31 Judiciary A agenda                                             | Official proceeding agenda                                                      | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S002 | agendas      | 2026-04-16 Judiciary agenda                                               | Official proceeding agenda                                                      | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S003 | amendments   | House Floor Amendment #4162 Dixon Wallace McMakin Adopted                 | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S004 | amendments   | House Floor Amendment #4414 Kyle M. Green, Jr. Rejected                   | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S005 | amendments   | Senate Floor Amendment #1741 Royce Duplessis Withdrawn                    | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S006 | amendments   | Senate Floor Amendment #1760 Jay Morris Adopted                           | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S007 | amendments   | Senate Floor Amendment #1863 Royce Duplessis Rejected                     | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S008 | amendments   | Senate Floor Amendment #1866 Royce Duplessis Rejected                     | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S009 | amendments   | Senate Floor Bureau Note #1852 Jay Morris Adopted                         | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S010 | amendments   | Senate Floor Legislative Bureau Amendment #1602 Gregory A. Miller Adopted | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S011 | amendments   | Summary of House Amendments to SB256                                      | Official proposed amendment and recorded disposition                            | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S012 | bill-page    | SB 256 official bill information                                          | Official bill history and source index                                          | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S013 | bill-text    | SB256 Act                                                                 | Official legislative instrument or enacted Act                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S014 | bill-text    | SB256 Engrossed                                                           | Official legislative instrument or enacted Act                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S015 | bill-text    | SB256 Enrolled                                                            | Official legislative instrument or enacted Act                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S016 | bill-text    | SB256 Original                                                            | Official legislative instrument or enacted Act                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S017 | bill-text    | SB256 Reengrossed                                                         | Official legislative instrument or enacted Act                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S018 | digests      | Digest of SB256 Engrossed                                                 | Official staff summary; not law and not independent proof of legislative intent | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S019 | digests      | Digest of SB256 Original                                                  | Official staff summary; not law and not independent proof of legislative intent | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S020 | digests      | Digest of SB256 Reengrossed                                               | Official staff summary; not law and not independent proof of legislative intent | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S021 | digests      | Resume Digest for SB256                                                   | Official staff summary; not law and not independent proof of legislative intent | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S022 | fiscal-notes | Fiscal Note - SB256 Enrolled                                              | Official fiscal analysis; relevant to expected costs but not enacted text       | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S023 | fiscal-notes | Fiscal Note - SB256 ReEngrossed                                           | Official fiscal analysis; relevant to expected costs but not enacted text       | <a href="#">Open source</a> |

| ID   | Category     | Official source                                                             | Role                                                                      | Link                        |
|------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| S024 | fiscal-notes | Fiscal Note - SB256 ReEngrossed With House Floor Amendments                 | Official fiscal analysis; relevant to expected costs but not enacted text | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S025 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-14 - No. 18                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S026 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-01 - No. 12                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S027 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-05-05 - No. 29                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S028 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-21 - No. 22                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S029 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-22 - No. 23                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S030 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-03-09 - No. 1                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S031 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-08 - No. 14                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S032 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-07 - No. 13                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S033 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-28 - No. 22                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S034 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-23 - No. 24                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S035 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-03-31 - No. 11                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S036 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-27 - No. 21                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S037 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-20 - No. 21                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S038 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-05-04 - No. 24                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S039 | journals     | House Journal - 2026-04-13 - No. 17                                         | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S040 | journals     | Senate Journal - 2026-04-29 - No. 23                                        | Official chamber journal                                                  | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S041 | votes        | 2026-04-16 Judiciary committee roll-call record                             | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S042 | votes        | House Judiciary committee vote 2026-04-16                                   | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S043 | votes        | House Vote on SB 256 AMENDMENT # 4414 BY GREEN MOTION TO ADOPT (#705)       | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S044 | votes        | House Vote on SB 256 FINAL PASSAGE (#708)                                   | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S045 | votes        | Senate Judiciary A committee vote 2026-03-31                                | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S046 | votes        | Senate Vote on SB 256 AMENDMENT # 1863 BY DUPLESSIS SB 256 BY MORRIS (#288) | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S047 | votes        | Senate Vote on SB 256 AMENDMENT # 1866 BY DUPLESSIS SB 256 BY MORRIS (#287) | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| S048 | votes        | Senate Vote on SB 256 CONCUR (#506)                                         | Official roll-call or committee vote record                               | <a href="#">Open source</a> |

| ID   | Category | Official source                            | Role                                        | Link                        |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| S049 | votes    | Senate Vote on SB 256 FINAL PASSAGE (#289) | Official roll-call or committee vote record | <a href="#">Open source</a> |

All 49 official records were downloaded, hashed, and text-extracted where applicable.

13 | ORAL PROVENANCE

## Official recording index

| ID | Proceeding                             | Material span                                                         | Official recording          |
|----|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| T1 | Senate Judiciary A Part 2 — 2026-03-31 | <a href="#">04:27:11-05:42:26</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T2 | Senate floor — 2026-04-01              | <a href="#">00:51:12-00:51:34</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T3 | Senate floor — 2026-04-07              | <a href="#">02:02:34-02:09:15</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T4 | Senate floor — 2026-04-08              | <a href="#">01:15:50-01:58:12</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T5 | House Judiciary — 2026-04-16           | <a href="#">00:02:00-03:10:32</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T6 | House floor — 2026-04-23               | <a href="#">01:11:39-03:39:27</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T7 | Senate floor — 2026-04-28              | <a href="#">00:41:02-00:41:16</a> ; <a href="#">01:36:33-01:36:37</a> | <a href="#">Open source</a> |
| T8 | Senate floor — 2026-04-29              | <a href="#">00:49:22-00:52:04</a>                                     | <a href="#">Open source</a> |

Select any green timestamp to open the official recording at the cited second.

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