



SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 16.29: Revisions to Private Assigned Counsel Fees

2025-2026 General Assembly

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 16.29

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Section 16.29 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) provides that changes in fees for private assigned counsel and rates of compensation for expert witnesses adopted by the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) shall not be implemented without the prior approval of the General Assembly. Additionally, this section authorizes IDS to increase private assigned counsel fees by no more than \$30 over the rate as it existed on July 1, 2026.

This section became effective July 7, 2026 and applies to changes in rates or fees implemented on or after that date.

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