

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATORS BISHOP AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGNERIS, BOUIE, CHANEY, COX, HENRY, HUNTER, JACKSON, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MORENO, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, RICHARD AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, committee on parole, to conduct a comprehensive review of parole matters and to report on those matters to the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the First Circuit Court of Appeal, and the Louisiana Supreme Court, not later than December 1, 2016.

WHEREAS, according to the most recent statistics compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the United States Department of Justice, Louisiana continues to have the highest rate of incarceration in the country; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is suffering from a fiscal crisis of unprecedented magnitude; and

WHEREAS, many states are combating increasing costs of incarceration by moving, as expeditiously as possible, nonviolent offenders into less costly alternatives including community-based probation and parole; and

WHEREAS, detailed statistics regarding the rate at which offenders in Louisiana are paroled and the reasons for parole denial are not readily available to the legislature and other interested agencies and entities; and

WHEREAS, statistics regarding the rate at which offenders are paroled and the reasons for parole denial would be particularly useful to the legislature and other interested agencies and entities in the formulation of policy and statutory law relative to parole, and to the management of the criminal justice system in general.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, committee on parole, to conduct a comprehensive review of parole matters, beginning with parole matters brought before the committee on parole, or brought before the former Board of Parole, from July 1,

2006, through July 1, 2016, and to submit a written report on these matters to the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the First Circuit Court of Appeal, and the Louisiana Supreme Court, not later than December 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report should contain the number of inmates appearing before the committee on parole or before the former Board of Parole for parole consideration, the number of inmates granted parole and denied parole, the calculated percentages of those granted parole and denied parole, the underlying criminal offense for which each inmate is or was incarcerated, and the reasons or criteria utilized in each case and upon which the decision to grant or deny parole was based.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the chairman of the committee on parole.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES