

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 267

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

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

JUVENILES/DELINQUENTS: Authorizes the establishment of arts-based programming at juvenile detention facilities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:905(A) and to enact R.S. 15:1110(D), relative to juvenile  
3 facilities; to authorize the establishment of arts-based programming at juvenile  
4 detention facilities operated by the office of juvenile justice or by any governmental,  
5 profit, nonprofit, private, or public agency; to provide relative to the funding of the  
6 arts-based programming; to provide for findings from studies conducted relative to  
7 arts-based programming for children in juvenile facilities; and to provide for related  
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Arts-based programs have been shown to be effective in promoting  
11 positive youth development by teaching valuable skills such as logic, organizational  
12 teamwork, and patience and by incorporating the knowledge that "failure" is a critical  
13 element of discovery and learning. Studies have shown that integrating the creative arts into  
14 all learning experiences enhances academic, social, and personal developmental outcomes.  
15 Arts-based programs for juvenile offenders support the premise that participation in arts  
16 programming reduces risk factors that cause children to be more susceptible to problem  
17 behaviors and enhance positive factors that enable youth to lead productive lives by  
18 increasing communication skills, conflict management techniques, and positive peer  
19 association.

1 Section 2. R.S. 15:905(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:1110(D)  
2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 §905. Rules and regulations; education; training and discipline, work opportunities,  
4 vocational training, contracts and agreements

5 A. Except as otherwise provided in laws and rules concerning oversight,  
6 accountability, and quality control of educational services delivered in state juvenile  
7 justice facilities, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile  
8 justice, shall have full control of all juvenile institutions, facilities, and programs  
9 under its administration and the affairs of such institutions, facilities, and programs  
10 and shall adopt all rules and regulations which it deems essential to the proper  
11 conduct of these institutions, facilities, and programs. All children in these juvenile  
12 institutions, facilities, and programs shall receive appropriate treatment, training, and  
13 education commensurate with their needs and abilities. In addition, the Department  
14 of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice, may establish arts-based  
15 programming in these juvenile institutions, facilities, and programs which may  
16 include but is not limited to performing arts, visual arts, and other arts activities that  
17 enhance youth development. For the purposes of funding the arts-based  
18 programming, the deputy secretary of the office of juvenile justice is authorized to  
19 receive, by appropriation, gift, grant, donation, or otherwise, any sum of money, aid,  
20 or assistance from any person, firm, or corporation or from the United States, its  
21 agencies, the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision of the state. The  
22 department may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements to fulfill its  
23 obligations to accomplish its goals in the most efficient manner possible.

24 \* \* \*

25 §1110. Detention standards; licensing; fees

26 \* \* \*

27 D. Each juvenile detention facility licensed pursuant to this Section,  
28 including facilities owned or operated by any governmental, profit, nonprofit,  
29 private, or public agency, may establish arts-based programming in the facility which



or corporation or from the U.S., its agencies, the state of La., or any political subdivision of the state.

(Amends R.S. 15:905(A); Adds R.S. 15:1110(D))