

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY SENATOR MORRELL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Creates and provides relative to the Pretrial Service Commission.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To establish and provide for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's pretrial
3 service laws and policies and to make recommendations for policy and legislative
4 changes on or before February 1, 2015, that will assist in providing more effective
5 pretrial decision-making.

6 WHEREAS, each year twelve million people are booked into jails in the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, most criminal defendants have a right to be released prior to trial, with
9 exceptions made only for those accused of the most serious and dangerous crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, many defendants stay in jail because they cannot meet the conditions
11 of release, which often are monetary; and

12 WHEREAS, courts determine conditions of release based on safety and flight risk,
13 but usually have little information about the risks defendants pose to guide these pretrial
14 decisions; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, legislators
16 in eleven states now provide statewide guidance to judges in pretrial decision making.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby establish and provide for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's

1 pretrial service laws and policies and to make recommendations for policy and legislative
2 changes on or before February 1, 2015, that will assist in providing more effective pretrial
3 decision-making.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pretrial Service Commission shall consist
5 of the following members:

- 6 (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, or his designee.
- 7 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, or his designee.
- 8 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, or his designee.
- 9 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal
10 Justice, or his designee.
- 11 (5) The chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, or her designee.
- 12 (6) One representative appointed by the Louisiana District Attorney's
13 Association.
- 14 (7) One member appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the chairman of the Senate Committee
17 on Judiciary C, the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, the chairman of the
18 House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the chief justice of the Louisiana
19 Supreme Court, the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, and the Louisiana Public
20 Defender Board.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cathy Wells.

DIGEST

Morrell

SR No. 150

Establishes and provides for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's pretrial service laws and policies and to make recommendations for policy and legislative changes on or before Feb. 1, 2015, that will assist in providing more effective pretrial decision-making.