HLS 19RS-1132 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS: To continue the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force and to extend the task force's reporting deadline until January 1, 2020

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To continue the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force that was created pursuant to
3	House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature
4	to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's
5	criminal justice system as it relates to women and to report its findings and policy
6	recommendations by January 1, 2020.
7	WHEREAS, over the last several years, Louisiana has taken steps to implement
8	cost-effective and evidence-based practices and programs that have worked to control the
9	growth in the state's prison population; and
10	WHEREAS, Louisiana should continue to build upon these successes while
11	recognizing that incarcerated women face unique challenges, and therefore, may or may not
12	benefit from these reform efforts; and
13	WHEREAS, according to United States Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2017,
14	Louisiana had the seventh highest women's incarceration rate in the United States and
15	incarcerated more than two thousand women at a cost of over \$50 million; and
16	WHEREAS, the most effective changes will be made when all those who are
17	impacted or involved in the criminal justice system have representation in developing
18	policies and processes related to women's incarceration, and input from all criminal justice
19	stakeholders is essential in the development and implementation of these changes; and
20	WHEREAS, it is beneficial to the entire population of the state of Louisiana to
21	continue the study of state sentencing and corrections systems for women with the goal of

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1 producing a body of research resulting in specific policy recommendations that reduce 2 correctional populations, implement placement and behavioral practices which address and 3 reduce violence and harassment based upon gender, and hold all parties in the correctional 4 system responsible for their actions; and 5 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 of the 2018 Regular Session of 6 the Legislature created the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force to study, evaluate, 7 analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's criminal justice system as it 8 relates to women for the purpose of developing policy recommendations that work to 9 accomplish all of the following: 10 (1) Develop practices and processes that avoid placing additional trauma or harm 11 upon women as they navigate the criminal justice system. 12 (2) Reduce both the correctional population and recidivism of women. 13 (3) Address the holistic health of women to include access to hormone therapy, 14 prenatal care, reproductive health, access to other medicine to maintain health, consistent 15 health screenings, mental health access, and access to substance use and recovery resources. 16 (4) Increase and evaluate programming available to women during and after 17 incarceration with the intention of self-determined development. 18 (5) Increase and ensure the availability of gender responsive resources to support the 19 dignity and quality of life of all women. 20 (6) Reinvest savings into strategies shown to decrease recidivism, including 21 improved reentry outcomes, diversion programs, and employment opportunities. 22 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 provided for the membership and 23 chairmanship of the task force; the goals, duties, responsibilities, procedures, and meeting 24 requirements of the task force; for the administrative assistance and staffing of the task 25 force; the authority to collaborate with community organizations and stakeholders; and the 26 authority to request relevant data and staff expertise from the Louisiana Legislative Women's 27 Caucus, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and the office of the judicial 28 administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court. 29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

continue the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force until January 1, 2020, for the

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1 purposes set forth in and in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 of the

- 2 2018 Regular Session.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 1, 2020, the task force shall
- 4 prepare and submit a final report containing a detailed statement of its findings and policy
- 5 recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives,
- 6 the president of the Louisiana Senate, and the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court,
- 7 and shall also make the report available to the public.
- 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 9 to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 37 Original

2019 Regular Session

Smith

To continue the La. Women's Incarceration Task Force that was created pursuant to HCR No. 27 of the 2018 R.S. to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's criminal justice system as it relates to women and to report its findings and policy recommendations by Jan. 1, 2020.