#### 2019 Regular Session

### HOUSE CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

#### BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Requests a study of the procedures for processing felony sentences and calculating incarceration release dates of persons in the custody of DPS&C

## 1 A CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST 2 To authorize and request the House Committee on Judiciary, or a subcommittee thereof, and 3 the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee 4 thereof, to meet and to function as a joint committee to study the procedures for 5 processing sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the procedures for 6 calculating incarceration release dates as they relate to those persons committed to 7 the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and to report the 8 findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2020 9 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. 10 WHEREAS, under Louisiana law, there are a number of factors that may impact the 11 sentence of a person convicted of a criminal offense, including but not limited to eligibility 12 for probation, parole, and earned compliance credits and eligibility for diminution of 13 sentence for good behavior or credits for participation in certain programming; and 14 WHEREAS, the application of these factors is not uniform as each year the 15 legislature makes changes to these laws and the version of the law that applies to a particular 16 person often times depends upon the law in effect at the time the crime was committed or 17 at the time the person was convicted or sentenced; and 18 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) is the state 19 agency responsible for the custody and care of approximately 35,000 adult offenders and is

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- 1 the agency tasked with calculating the length of the offender's sentence, taking into account 2 the various factors that impact the length of the sentence; and 3 WHEREAS, with more than half of that population being housed in various parish 4 facilities and work release centers across the state, and the remainder being housed in the 5 state's nine correctional facilities, it is important for DPS&C to have centralized, accurate, 6 and up-to-date information on all of the offenders committed to its custody; and 7 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor evaluated the Department 8 of Public Safety and Corrections' management of offender data, including its processes for 9 ensuring the accuracy of that data; and 10 WHEREAS, in the audit, the legislative auditor recognized the efforts of legislators 11 and criminal justice stakeholders in working toward prison reform, and stated that the 12 success of these reform efforts is largely dependent upon having accurate and complete 13 information on Louisiana's offender population; and 14 WHEREAS, it is important for DPS&C to have strong policies and procedures to 15 effectively manage offender data, to track offender locations, to calculate offender release 16 dates, and to ensure the accuracy of this information. 17 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on Judiciary, or a subcommittee thereof, and the House Committee on Administration of 18 19 Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to meet and to function as a joint committee to 20 study the procedures for processing sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the 21 procedures for calculating incarceration release dates as they relate to those persons 22 committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and to report 23 the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2020 24 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. 25 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana further requests that the joint committee 26 solicit input, information, data, recommendations, and advice from the following: 27 (1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections. 28 (2) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. 29 (3) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- 30 (4) The office of the governor.

- 1 (5) The Louisiana Supreme Court.
- 2 (6) The Louisiana District Judges Association.
- 3 (7) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- 4 (8) The Louisiana Public Defender Board.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may seek input, information, and

6 data from any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders that it deems necessary to fulfill

7 the purposes of this Request.

# 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)]

HCSR 1 Original

2019 Regular Session

Jackson

Requests the House Committee on Judiciary, or a subcommittee thereof, and the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to meet and to function as a joint committee to study the procedures for processing sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the procedures for calculating incarceration release dates as they relate to those persons committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, and to report the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2020 R.S.