



1           WHEREAS, these complex challenges include but are not limited to limitation on  
2 state funds available for housing per diem rates to ensure local jails are able to provide  
3 reentry, educational, and vocational programming, appropriate staffing levels, employee  
4 retention, and facility spacing comparable to that of state prison facilities; and

5           WHEREAS, approximately twelve thousand of the persons committed to the custody  
6 of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to serve judicially ordered sentences are  
7 housed in local jails across the state; and

8           WHEREAS, despite these challenges, Louisiana has made significant strides in the  
9 reduction of the prison population and the expansion of available programming and  
10 resources in local jails through the creation of regional reentry centers and other local level  
11 partnerships; and

12           WHEREAS, local jails that house state inmates are required to comply with the  
13 Department of Public Safety and Corrections Basic Jail Guidelines; and

14           WHEREAS, the nature of housing conditions and availability of reentry  
15 programming can meaningfully impact recidivism and relationships between incarcerated  
16 individuals and their families and communities; and

17           WHEREAS, since 2008, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections in  
18 partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and sheriffs' offices have made  
19 significant efforts to improve the housing conditions in certain jails across the state with the  
20 creation of eleven regional reentry centers in local jails that provide pre-release, reentry,  
21 educational, and rehabilitative programming to state inmates housed in such local jails; and

22           WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana  
23 Sheriffs' Association seek to continue to improve housing conditions in local jails through  
24 the continued expansion of programming contingent upon the availability of funding, to  
25 revise and modify the Basic Jail Guidelines, and ensure the uniform enforcement thereof;  
26 and

27           WHEREAS, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of  
28 Texas at Austin is one of the preeminent public affairs schools in the United States and has  
29 comprehensively studied housing conditions in prisons and jails nationwide.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2 urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana Sheriffs'  
3 Association, in conjunction with the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the  
4 University of Texas at Austin, to study and review the Department of Public Safety and  
5 Corrections Basic Jail Guidelines, including methods of evaluation and enforcement,  
6 mandatory and non-mandatory standards of confinement as required by the American  
7 Correctional Association as applicable to local jails, and the programming and resource  
8 needs of local jails, to recommend modifications to the Basic Jail Guidelines and existing  
9 methods of enforcement and compliance and the expansion of programming resources in  
10 local jails, and to identify the appropriate funding levels necessary to carry out such  
11 recommendations in order to further improve the housing conditions.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and  
13 Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with the Lyndon B. Johnson  
14 School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin may work with and receive  
15 information from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including  
16 representatives of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs'  
17 Association, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
19 and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with the technical assistance of the  
20 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, report their  
21 findings to the Louisiana Legislature no later than September 1, 2022.

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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)]

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HCR 89 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Marcelle

Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and the La. Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with technical and research assistance from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, to study and review models for oversight, transparency, and accountability adopted in other states and provide recommendations through a report of their findings to the legislature no later than Sept. 1, 2022.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Remove Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University College of Law, and La. Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition and request that the study be conducted by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and the La. Sheriffs' Association.
2. Change the deadline to report findings to the legislature from Feb. 1, 2022, to Sept. 1, 2022.
3. Rephrase the statements supporting the study request.