HLS 21RS-3191 **REENGROSSED**

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Creates a commission to study the procedures for processing felony sentences and calculating incarceration release dates of persons in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To create and establish the Incarceration Release Date Commission to study the procedures 3 for processing sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the procedures for 4 calculating incarceration release dates of those persons committed to the custody of 5 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and to report the findings of the 6 commission to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of 7 the Legislature of Louisiana. 8 WHEREAS, under Louisiana law there are a number of factors that may impact the 9 sentence of a person convicted of a criminal offense, including but not limited to eligibility 10 for probation, parole, and earned compliance credits and eligibility for diminution of 11 sentence for good behavior or credits for participation in certain programs; and 12 WHEREAS, the application of these factors is not uniform as each year the 13 legislature makes changes to these laws and the version of the law that applies to a particular 14 person often times depends upon the law in effect at the time the crime was committed or 15 at the time the person was convicted or sentenced; and 16 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is the state agency 17 responsible for the custody and care of approximately thirty-five thousand adult offenders 18 and is the agency tasked with calculating the length of the offender's sentence, taking into 19

account the various factors that impact the length of the sentence; and

1	WHEREAS, with more than half of that population being housed in various parish
2	facilities and work release centers across the state, and the remainder being housed in the
3	state's nine correctional facilities, it is important for the Department of Public Safety and
4	Corrections to have centralized, accurate, and up-to-date information on all of the offenders
5	committed to its custody; and
6	WHEREAS, in 2017, the legislative auditor evaluated the Department of Public
7	Safety and Corrections' management of offender data, including processes for ensuring the
8	accuracy of that data; and
9	WHEREAS, in the audit, the legislative auditor recognized the efforts of legislators
10	and criminal justice stakeholders in working toward prison reform and stated that the success
11	of these reform efforts is largely dependent upon having accurate and complete information
12	on Louisiana's offender population; and
13	WHEREAS, it is important for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to
14	have strong policies and procedures to effectively manage offender data, to track offender
15	locations, to calculate offender release dates, and to ensure the accuracy of this information.
16	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17	create the Incarceration Release Date Commission to study the procedures for processing
18	sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the procedures for calculating
19	incarceration release dates of those persons committed to the custody of the Department of
20	Public Safety and Corrections, and to report the findings of the commission to the legislature
21	prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall be comprised of the
23	following members:
24	(1) The chairman of House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or his
25	designee.
26	(2) One member of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice,
27	appointed by the chairman.
28	(3) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, or his designee.
29	(4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, or his designee.
30	(5) A representative from the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

1	(6) A representative from the Louisiana District Judges Association.
2	(7) A representative from the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.
3	(8) A representative from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
4	(9) A representative from Louisiana Public Defender Board.
5	(10) A representative from the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
6	(11) A representative from Voice of the Experienced.
7	(12) A representative from Louisiana Parole Project.
8	(13) A representative from Southern Poverty Law Center.
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may seek input, information,
10	and data from any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders that it deems necessary to
11	fulfill the purposes of this Resolution.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
13	shall provide staff support to the commission
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15	executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the president of the Louisiana
16	District Judges Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Clerks of Court
17	Association, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the chairman
18	of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the executive director of the Louisiana District
19	Attorneys Association, the director of Voice of the Experienced, the director of Louisiana
20	Parole Project, and the director of Southern Poverty Law Center.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Incarceration Release Date Commission
22	shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this
23	Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.
	DIGEST
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HCR 101 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

James

Creates the Incarceration Release Date Commission to study the procedures for processing sentences imposed after a criminal conviction and the procedures for calculating incarceration release dates of those persons committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, and to report the findings of the commission to the La. legislature prior to the convening of the 2022 R.S.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add a representative from Voice of the Experienced, Louisiana Parole Project, and Southern Poverty Law Center to the commission.