A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on the current system of reporting deaths of individuals committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the feasibility of periodic analysis of mortality in correctional facilities in Louisiana as a means of reducing carceral mortality, and to provide recommendations through a report of its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2024.

WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving federal grant assistance for law enforcement, the state is required to quarterly report deaths in parish prisons, state prisons, and private correctional institutions; and

WHEREAS, incarcerated persons are more likely to have chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, the human immunodeficiency virus, mental health conditions, as well as substance abuse problems; and

WHEREAS, national data indicates that deaths in state and federal prisons increased by more than fifty percent during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
WHEREAS, data also indicates that the increase in deaths in prisons exceeded the increase in deaths in other congregant living facilities, such as nursing homes; and
WHEREAS, every year incarcerated persons die due to other causes, which include accidents, suicide, and violence; and
WHEREAS, the use of solitary confinement is correlated with increased rates of suicide; and
WHEREAS, additional data is needed to understand the impacts associated with solitary confinement in Louisiana prisons and jails; and
WHEREAS, other states, such as Kansas and Texas, have developed systems that may provide valuable insight to consider for the reporting of mortality in correctional facilities in the state; and
WHEREAS, mortality statistics are an important health tool for understanding and addressing community health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on the current system of reporting deaths of individuals committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the feasibility of periodic analysis of mortality in correctional facilities in Louisiana as a means of reducing carceral mortality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly
Incarcerated Transitions Clinic report their findings and any policy recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature no later than February 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the assistant secretary of the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the director of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the executive director of Voice of the Experienced, the dean of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the director of the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the director of the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the director of the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

Requests the office of public health of the La. Dept. of Health, the La. State Coroner's Association, the La. Public Health Institute, the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, the La. Sheriffs' Association, the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the La. Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on the current system of reporting deaths of individuals committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the feasibility of periodic analysis of mortality in correctional facilities in La. as a means of reducing carceral mortality.