

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 7

BY SENATOR CONNICK

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. Provides for reporting of escapes from juvenile institutions. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:909(A), (B), and (C), relative to state juvenile institutions; to
3 provide relative to reporting of escapes from juvenile institutions; to expand
4 reporting requirements for juvenile escapes to facilities that house juveniles on
5 behalf of the state; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:909(A), (B), and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 §909. Reporting of escapes from ~~state~~ juvenile institutions; records
10 A. The superintendent or highest ranking employee of the Department of
11 Public Safety and Corrections, ~~Corrections Services~~ **corrections services**, or the
12 person acting on behalf of the department, **or the operator of a facility that houses**
13 **juvenile offenders on behalf of the state**, who is physically present at and in charge
14 of a juvenile institution **or facility that houses juvenile offenders on behalf of the**
15 **state** at the time of an escape from that institution shall, within ten minutes after
16 being notified that a child or offender has escaped from or left the premises or
17 grounds of the institution without authority, notify or take necessary steps to insure

1 the notification of every law enforcement agency, as defined in this Section, and
2 local news services and other media outlets.

3 B.(1) The superintendent or person in charge of a state juvenile institution or
4 facility that houses juvenile offenders on behalf of the state shall maintain a
5 record and description of every escape from the juvenile institution or escape from
6 a facility that houses juvenile offenders on behalf of the state of which the
7 superintendent or other person has control. The record shall list the date and time
8 of the escape, the number of offenders who escaped, the offenses for which the
9 escapees were placed at the institution, the name of each law enforcement agency
10 notified of the escape, the time each law enforcement agency was notified and the
11 name of the person receiving the notice, and the name of the department employee
12 or agent who notified that law enforcement agency.

13 (2) The report provided for by this Subsection shall be available for public
14 inspection and shall list all prior escapes, if any, from the institution or facility that
15 houses juvenile offenders on behalf of the state within the ~~last~~ five years of prior
16 to the date of the ~~last~~ most recent escape. A copy of the report shall be delivered to
17 each law enforcement agency as defined in this Section and made available to local
18 media and the general public upon proper submission of a public records
19 request.

20 C. The secretary of the department shall promulgate rules and regulations to
21 ~~insure~~ ensure the immediate reporting of all escapes from juvenile institutions and
22 facilities that house juvenile offenders on behalf of the state as required by this
23 Section.

24 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

Present law requires that the superintendent or highest ranking employee of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, or the person acting on behalf of the department, who is physically present at and in charge of a juvenile institution at the time

of an escape, within 10 minutes of being notified that a child or offender has escaped the institution, notify or take necessary steps to insure the notification of every law enforcement agency as defined in present law.

Proposed law retains present law and makes present law applicable to facilities that house juvenile offenders on behalf of the state. Proposed law further requires notification of escapes be made to local news services and other media outlets.

Present law requires provides that the superintendent or person in charge of a juvenile institution maintain a record and description of every escape from the juvenile institution. Present law further provides that this record list the date and time of the escape, the number of offenders who escaped, the offenses for which the escapees were placed at the institution, the name of each law enforcement agency notified of the escape, the time each law enforcement agency was notified and the name of the person receiving the notice, and the name of the department employee or agent who notified the law enforcement agency.

Proposed law retains present law and makes present law applicable to facilities that house juvenile offenders on behalf of the state.

Present law requires that the report of escapes be available for public inspection and list all prior escapes from the institution within the five years prior to the date of the most recent escape, and provides that a copy of the report be delivered to each law enforcement agency.

Proposed law retains present law and makes present law applicable to facilities that house juvenile offenders on behalf of the state.

Present law requires that the secretary of the department promulgate rules and regulations to ensure the immediate reporting of all escapes from juvenile institutions.

Proposed law retains present law and makes present law applicable to facilities that house juvenile offenders on behalf of the state.

Proposed law retains present law that defines "law enforcement agency" as the sheriff's office, all police departments in the parish, and the office of state police.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 15:909(A), (B), and (C))