

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 578

BY REPRESENTATIVES LYONS, BOYD, BRYANT, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD  
CARTER, CHASSION, COX, GREEN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, MOORE, NEWELL,  
SELDERS, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, AND WILLARD

CORRECTIONS: Creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part V-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised  
3 of R.S. 15:956, relative to children; to establish the Back on Track Youth Pilot  
4 Program; to provide for a purpose; to provide for a curriculum; to provide for  
5 administration of the program; to provide for eligibility; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part V-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised  
9 of R.S. 15:956, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART V-B. BACK ON TRACK YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM

11 §956. Back on Track Youth Pilot Program

12 A. The Back on Track Youth Pilot Program is hereby established with the  
13 express purpose of giving youths an option other than some form of criminal activity.

14 B. Within this program, youths shall be able to participate in programs that  
15 include but are not limited to the following curriculum:

16 (1) Occupational or vocational training.

17 (2) Life skills.

18 (3) Healthy choices.

19 (4) Literacy instruction.

1           C. This program shall be administered by selected nonprofit groups as well  
2           as the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Department of Children and  
3           Family Services, the Department of Education, and the Louisiana Workforce  
4           Commission.

5           D. Eligibility shall be established based on a variety of criteria including but  
6           not limited to any of the following:

7                   (1) The income of the youth's family.

8                   (2) Whether the youth is considered at risk with behavior that indicates  
9                   aggression or disruption, disciplinary problems, or delinquency.

10                  (3) Demographic locations in the state.

11           E. For the purposes of this Section, "youth or youths" shall mean a person  
12           who has not attained eighteen years of age.

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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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HB 578 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Lyons

**Abstract:** Creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program with the express purpose of giving youths an option other than some form of criminal activity.

Proposed law provides that within this program, youths shall be able to participate in programs that include but are not limited to the following curriculum:

- (1) Occupational or vocational training.
- (2) Life skills.
- (3) Healthy choices.
- (4) Literacy instruction.

Proposed law provides that this program shall be administered by selected nonprofit groups as well as the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the Dept. of Education, and the La. Workforce Commission.

Proposed law provides that eligibility shall be established based on a variety of criteria including but not limited to any of the following:

- (1) The income of the youth's family.

(2) Whether the youth is considered at risk with behavior that indicates aggression or disruption, disciplinary problems, or delinquency.

(3) Demographic locations in the state.

Proposed law defines the term "youth or youths".

(Adds R.S. 15:956)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change references from "juveniles" to "youths".
3. Remove the Dept. of Veterans Affairs as one of the administering entities of the program.
4. Define the term "youth or youths".