

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 196

BY SENATOR OWEN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COURTS. Provides relative to homelessness. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 33-D of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 13:5381 through 5386, and R.S. 14:107.6, relative to homelessness; to provide for the creation of homelessness court programs; to provide program goals, guidelines, and participation criteria; to provide for annual evaluations of homelessness court programs submitted to the supreme court; to create the crime of unauthorized camping on public property; to provide for criminal penalties; to provide for terms, conditions, procedures, and definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 33-D of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 13:5381 through 5386, and R.S. 14:107.6 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 33-D. HOMELESSNESS COURT PROGRAM**

**§5381. Short title**

**This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Homelessness Court Program Act".**

1        §5382. Purpose

2                The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that there is a critical need for  
3        criminal justice system programs to assist those persons who are experiencing  
4        homelessness in order to reduce the incidence of substance abuse disorders,  
5        untreated mental health issues, destruction and disruption of use of public  
6        property, significant public health and safety issues, and crimes committed by  
7        those experiencing homelessness. There is also a need for programs to assist  
8        those experiencing homelessness with mental health issues, including mental  
9        health diagnoses and undiagnosed mental illnesses. Moreover, many  
10       experiencing homelessness suffer from co-occurring disorders of substance  
11       abuse and mental illness. These problems can cause those experiencing  
12       homelessness to have involvement with the criminal justice system. Therefore,  
13       it is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana to create specialized court  
14       programs in the various districts of this state called "homelessness court  
15       programs" to assist those experiencing homelessness in overcoming these issues,  
16       as they impact themselves, the criminal justice system, and society at large. The  
17       goal of these programs shall be to reduce recidivism among those experiencing  
18       homelessness and to provide those experiencing homelessness with the  
19       assistance that they need to become productive members of society.

20       §5383. Goals

21                The goals of the homelessness court program created under this Chapter  
22        shall include all of the following:

23                (1) To reduce drug abuse and alcoholism and dependency among  
24        offenders.

25                (2) To reduce the alcohol and drug-related workload of the courts.

26                (3) To reduce criminal recidivism.

27                (4) To diagnose undiagnosed mental health problems and to assist in the  
28        care and treatment of diagnosed mental health illnesses.

29                (5) To increase the personal, familial, and societal accountability of

1 offenders.

2 (6) To reduce prison overcrowding.

3 (7) To provide employment and job training for those experiencing  
4 homelessness.

5 (8) To provide housing assistance for those experiencing homelessness  
6 in partnership with state, local, and federal housing authorities and nonprofit  
7 organizations.

8 (9) To provide counseling services as necessary.

9 §5384. Definitions

10 For the purposes of this Chapter:

11 (1) "Participant" means a person currently experiencing homelessness  
12 who is subject to the jurisdiction of the homelessness court program.  
13 Participant may also be referred to as a person, defendant, probationer, or  
14 offender as context requires.

15 (2) "Homelessness court program" means a program that has all of the  
16 following essential characteristics:

17 (a) The integration of health care, education, and housing assistance, as  
18 well as employment, job training, disability compensation counseling, and other  
19 rehabilitative services in the processing of cases in the criminal justice system.

20 (b) Early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants in  
21 the program, whereby they become program participants.

22 (c) The use of nonadversarial approaches involving prosecutors and  
23 defense attorneys to promote public safety and protect the due process rights  
24 of program participants.

25 (d) Access to continuum of alcohol, controlled substance, mental health,  
26 suicide assessment, intervention, treatment and management, and other related  
27 treatment and rehabilitative services.

28 (e) Careful monitoring of treatment and services provided to program  
29 participants.

1                   (f) A coordinated strategy to govern program responses to participants'  
2                   compliance.

3                   (g) Ongoing judicial interaction with program participants.

4                   (h) Monitoring and evaluation of program goals and effectiveness.

5                   (i) Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective program  
6                   planning, implementation, and operations.

7                   (j) Development of partnerships with public agencies and community  
8                   organizations, including but not limited to the Louisiana Workforce  
9                   Commission, the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
10                  Development, and any other local, state or federal agency, or organization that  
11                  can provide assistance to participants.

12                  §5385. The homelessness court program

13                  A. Each district court by rule may designate as a homelessness court  
14                  program one or more divisions of the district court to which participants are  
15                  assigned and may establish a probation program to be administered by the  
16                  presiding judge or judges thereof or by an employee designated by the court.

17                  B. Participation in probation programs shall be subject to the following  
18                  provisions:

19                  (1) The district attorney may propose to the court that a defendant be  
20                  screened for eligibility as a participant in the homelessness court program if all  
21                  of the following criteria are satisfied:

22                  (a) The defendant is charged with a violation of a statute of this state,  
23                  either a felony or misdemeanor, and is determined to be a defendant  
24                  experiencing homelessness.

25                  (b) The district attorney has reason to believe that the defendant who is  
26                  charged may benefit by the homelessness court program.

27                  (c) The district attorney has reason to believe that it is in the best interest  
28                  of the community and in the interest of justice to provide the defendant with  
29                  treatment as opposed to incarceration or other sanctions.

1           (2) Upon receipt of the proposal provided for in Paragraph (1) of this  
2           Subsection, the court shall advise the defendant that he may be eligible for  
3           enrollment in a court-authorized treatment program through the homelessness  
4           court program.

5           (3)(a) If the defendant requests to undergo treatment and is accepted into  
6           the homelessness court program, the defendant shall be placed under the  
7           supervision of the homelessness court program for the period of not less than  
8           twelve months.

9           (b) During the treatment the defendant may be confined in a treatment  
10          facility or, at the discretion of the court, the defendant may be released on a  
11          probationary basis for treatment or supervised aftercare in the community.

12          (c) The court may impose any conditions reasonably related to the  
13          complete rehabilitation of the defendant.

14          (d) The defendant shall be required to participate in any court-ordered  
15          alcohol and drug testing program at his own expense, unless the court  
16          determines that he is indigent.

17          (e) If the defendant completes the homelessness court program, and has  
18          successfully completed all other requirements of his court-ordered probation,  
19          the conviction may be set aside and the prosecution dismissed in accordance  
20          with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894. A  
21          defendant's successful completion of the homelessness court program and the  
22          other requirements of probation may result in his discharge from supervision.  
23          If the defendant does not successfully complete the homelessness court program,  
24          the judge may revoke the probation and impose sentence, or the judge may  
25          revoke the probation and order the defendant to serve the sentence previously  
26          imposed and suspended, or the judge may revoke the probation and order the  
27          defendant to be committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety  
28          and Corrections and be required to serve a sentence of not more than six  
29          months without diminution of sentence in the intensive incarceration program

1 pursuant to R.S. 15:574.4.4 and 574.5, then to be returned to the regular  
2 homelessness court docket, or the court may impose any sanction provided by  
3 Code of Criminal Procedure Article 900, and extend probation and order that  
4 the defendant continue treatment for an additional period, or both.

5 (4) The defendant shall have the right to be represented by counsel at all  
6 stages of a criminal prosecution and in any court hearing relating to the  
7 homelessness court program. The defendant shall be represented by counsel  
8 during the negotiations to determine eligibility to participate in the  
9 homelessness court program and shall be represented by counsel at the time of  
10 the execution of the probation agreement, and at any hearing to revoke the  
11 defendant's probation and discharge him from the program, unless the court  
12 finds and the record shows that the defendant has knowingly and intelligently  
13 waived his right to counsel.

14 (5) If the defendant elects to undergo treatment and participate in the  
15 homelessness court program, the court shall order an examination of the  
16 defendant by one of the court's designated licensed treatment programs.  
17 Treatment programs shall possess sufficient experience in working with  
18 criminal justice participants with alcohol or drug addictions, mental health  
19 problems, or all of these matters, and shall be certified and approved by the  
20 state of Louisiana. The designated treatment program shall utilize standardized  
21 testing and evaluation procedures to determine whether or not the defendant  
22 is an appropriate candidate for a treatment program and shall report the  
23 findings to the court and the district attorney.

24 (6) The treatment program examiner or district attorney may request  
25 that the defendant provide the following information to the court:

26 (a) Information regarding prior criminal charges.

27 (b) Education, work experience, and training.

28 (c) Family history, including residence in the community.

29 (d) Medical and mental history, including any psychiatric or

1 psychological treatment or counseling.

2 (e) Any other information reasonably related to the success of the  
3 treatment program.

4 (7) The designated program shall recommend to the court a preliminary  
5 length of stay and level of care for the defendant.

6 (8) In addition to the report submitted by the examiner, the judge and  
7 district attorney shall consider the following factors in determining whether the  
8 homelessness court program would be in the interest of justice and of benefit to  
9 the defendant and the community:

10 (a) The nature of the crime charged and the circumstances surrounding  
11 the crime.

12 (b) Any special characteristics or circumstances of the defendant.

13 (c) Whether the defendant is a first-time offender and, if the defendant  
14 has previously participated in this or a similar program, the degree of success  
15 attained.

16 (d) Whether there is a probability that the defendant will cooperate with  
17 and benefit from probation and treatment through the homelessness court  
18 program.

19 (e) Whether the available homelessness court program is appropriate to  
20 meet the needs of the defendant.

21 (f) The impact of the defendant's probation and treatment upon the  
22 community.

23 (g) Recommendations, if any, of the involved law enforcement agency.

24 (h) Recommendations, if any, of the victim.

25 (i) Provisions for and the likelihood of obtaining restitution from the  
26 defendant over the course of his probation.

27 (j) Any mitigating circumstances.

28 (k) Any other circumstances reasonably related to the defendant's case.

29 (9) In order to be eligible for the homelessness court program, the

1 defendant shall satisfy each of the following criteria:

2 (a) The defendant shall not have a prior felony conviction for an offense  
3 defined as a homicide in R.S. 14:29 or as a sex offense in R.S. 15:541, or any  
4 pending criminal proceeding alleging commission of an offense defined as a  
5 crime of violence in R.S. 14:2(B) or an offense defined as a sex offense in R.S.  
6 15:541.

7 (b) The crime before the court shall not be a charge of driving under the  
8 influence of alcohol or any other drug or drugs that resulted in the death of a  
9 person.

10 (10)(a) The judge shall make the final determination of eligibility. If,  
11 based on the examiner's report and the recommendations of the district  
12 attorney and the defense counsel, the judge determines that the defendant  
13 should be enrolled in the homelessness court program, the court shall accept the  
14 defendant's guilty plea, suspend or defer the imposition of sentence, and place  
15 the defendant on probation under the terms and conditions of the homelessness  
16 court program. The court also may impose the sentence and suspend the  
17 execution thereof, placing the defendant on probation under the terms and  
18 conditions of the homelessness court program.

19 (b) If the judge determines that the defendant is not qualified for  
20 enrollment, the judge may state for the record the reasons for that  
21 determination.

22 (c) A homelessness court program team or staff may petition the court  
23 to reject a referral to the homelessness court program if the homelessness court  
24 program team or staff deems the defendant to be inappropriate for admission  
25 to the homelessness court program. Additionally, a homelessness court program  
26 team or staff may petition the court for immediate discharge of any individual  
27 who fails to comply with homelessness court program rules and treatment  
28 expectations or who refuses to constructively engage in the treatment process.

29 C.(1) In offering a defendant the opportunity to request treatment, the



1 court shall advise the defendant of the following at the time of the guilty plea:

2 (a) If the defendant is accepted into the homelessness court program,  
3 then the defendant shall waive the right to a trial. The defendant shall enter a  
4 plea of guilty to the charge, with the stipulation that sentencing be deferred or  
5 that the sentence be imposed, but suspended, and the defendant placed on  
6 supervised probation under the usual conditions of probation and under certain  
7 special conditions of probation related to the completion of such treatment  
8 programs as are ordered by the court. During participation in the program, the  
9 defendant shall be subject to nonadversarially determined sanctions. All  
10 adversarial hearings shall occur during probation violation hearings.

11 (b) The terms of each probation agreement shall be decided by the judge.  
12 The defendant shall agree to enter the program and sign a probation agreement  
13 stating the terms and conditions of his program. The defendant shall plead  
14 guilty to the charge in order to be eligible for the homelessness court program.

15 (2) Any probation agreement entered into pursuant to this Section shall  
16 include the following:

17 (a) The terms of the agreement shall provide that if the defendant fulfills  
18 the obligations of the agreement, as determined by the court, then the criminal  
19 charges may be dismissed and the prosecution set aside in accordance with the  
20 provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, or, if the  
21 defendant has been sentenced following the plea of guilty, then the successful  
22 completion of the homelessness court program may result in the discharge of  
23 the defendant from continued supervision.

24 (b) A waiver by the defendant of the right to trial by jury under the laws  
25 and constitutions of Louisiana and the United States.

26 (c) The defendant's full name.

27 (d) The defendant's full name at the time the complaint was filed, if  
28 different from the defendant's current name.

29 (e) The defendant's sex and date of birth.

1           (f) The crime before the court.

2           (g) The date the complaint was filed.

3           (h) The court in which the agreement was filed.

4           (i) A stipulation of the facts upon which the charge was based, as agreed  
5 to by the defendant and the district attorney.

6           (j) A provision that the defendant may be required to pay a probation  
7 supervision fee if ordered by the court.

8           (k) A provision, in cases where applicable, that the defendant may be  
9 required to pay restitution to the victim.

10          (l) A provision, that once the defendant is receiving treatment as an  
11 outpatient or living in a halfway house, he shall participate in appropriate job  
12 training or schooling or seek gainful employment if ordered by the court.

13          (m) A copy of the plea agreement.

14          (3) To the extent of his financial resources, a defendant who is placed  
15 under the supervision of the homelessness court program may be required to  
16 pay a portion of or the entire cost of the treatment program to which he is  
17 assigned and the cost of any additional supervision that may be required, as  
18 determined by the homelessness court program.

19          (4) If the probationer does not have the financial resources to pay all the  
20 related costs of the probation program:

21           (a) The court, to the extent practicable, shall arrange for the probationer  
22 to be assigned to a treatment program funded by the state or federal  
23 government.

24           (b) The court, with the recommendation of the treatment program, may  
25 order the probationer to perform supervised work for the benefit of the  
26 community in lieu of paying all or a part of the costs relating to his treatment  
27 and supervision. The work shall be performed for and under the supervising  
28 authority of a parish, municipality, or other political subdivision or agency of  
29 the state of Louisiana or a charitable organization that renders service to the

1 community or its residents.

2 (c) Any fee may be waived at the discretion of the court.

3 D.(1) When appropriate, the imposition or execution of sentence shall be  
4 postponed while the defendant is enrolled in the treatment program. As long as  
5 the probationer follows the conditions of his agreement, he shall remain on  
6 probation. At the conclusion of the period of probation, the district attorney, on  
7 advice of the person providing the probationer's treatment and the probation  
8 officer, may recommend that the court take one of the following courses of  
9 action:

10 (a) Revoke the probationer's probation and sentence the probationer  
11 because he has not successfully completed the treatment and has violated one  
12 or more conditions of probation; or, if the probationer has already been  
13 sentenced, revoke the probation and remand the probationer to the appropriate  
14 custodian for service of that sentence.

15 (b) Extend the period of probation so that the probationer may continue  
16 the program.

17 (c) Set aside the probationer's conviction and dismiss the prosecution  
18 because the probationer has successfully completed all the conditions of his  
19 probation and treatment agreement.

20 (2) The district attorney shall make the final determination on whether  
21 to request revocation, extension, or dismissal.

22 (3)(a) If a person who has enrolled in a program violates any of the  
23 conditions of his probation or his treatment agreement or appears to be  
24 performing unsatisfactorily in the assigned program, or if it appears that the  
25 probationer is not benefitting from education, treatment, or rehabilitation, the  
26 treatment supervisor, probation officer, or the district attorney may move the  
27 court for a hearing to determine if the probationer may remain in the program  
28 or whether the probation may be revoked and the probationer removed from  
29 the program and sentenced or ordered to serve any sentence previously

1 imposed. If at the hearing the moving party can show sufficient proof that the  
2 probationer has violated his probation or his treatment agreement and has not  
3 shown a willingness to submit to rehabilitation, the probationer may be  
4 removed from the program or his treatment agreement may be changed to meet  
5 the probationer's specific needs.

6 (b) If the court finds that the probationer has violated a condition of his  
7 probation or a provision of his probation agreement and that the probationer  
8 should be removed from the probation program, then the court may revoke the  
9 probation and sentence the person in accordance with his guilty plea or, if the  
10 person has been sentenced and the sentence suspended, order the person to  
11 begin serving the sentence.

12 (c) If a defendant who has been admitted to the probation program fails  
13 to complete the program and is thereafter sentenced to jail time for the offense,  
14 he shall be entitled to credit for the time served in any correctional facility in  
15 connection with the charge before the court.

16 (d) At any time and for any appropriate reason, the probationer, his  
17 probation officer, the district attorney, or his treatment provider may petition  
18 the court to reconsider, suspend, or modify its order for rehabilitation or  
19 treatment concerning that probationer.

20 (e) The burden of proof at all the hearings shall be the burden of proof  
21 required to revoke probation as provided by law.

22 E. The appropriate treatment program shall report the following  
23 changes or conditions to the district attorney at any periodic reporting period  
24 specified by the court:

25 (1) The probationer is changed from an inpatient to an outpatient.

26 (2) The probationer is transferred to another treatment center or  
27 program.

28 (3) The probationer fails to comply with program rules and treatment  
29 expectations.

1                   (4) The probationer refuses to engage constructively in the treatment  
2                   process.

3                   (5) The probationer terminates his participation in the treatment  
4                   program.

5                   (6) The probationer is rehabilitated or has obtained the maximum  
6                   benefits of rehabilitation or treatment.

7                   F. Upon successful completion of the homelessness court program and  
8                   its terms and conditions, the judge, after receiving the recommendation from  
9                   the district attorney, may vacate the judgment of conviction and dismiss the  
10                  criminal proceedings against the probationer or may discharge the defendant  
11                  from probation in accordance with the provisions of Code of Criminal  
12                  Procedure Articles 893 or 894.

13                  G. Discharge and dismissal under this Chapter, as provided in Code of  
14                  Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, shall have the same effect as an  
15                  acquittal, except that the conviction may be considered in order to provide the  
16                  basis for subsequent prosecution of the party as a multiple offender and shall  
17                  be considered an offense for the purposes of any other law or laws relating to  
18                  cumulation of offenses. Dismissal under this Chapter shall occur only once with  
19                  respect to any person. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as a basis for  
20                  the destruction of records of the arrest and prosecution of the person.

21                  H. Nothing contained in this Chapter shall confer a right or an  
22                  expectation of a right to treatment for a defendant or offender within the  
23                  criminal justice system.

24                  I. Each defendant shall contribute to the cost of any treatment received  
25                  in the homelessness court program based upon guidelines developed by the  
26                  homelessness court program. Any fees may be waived at the discretion of the  
27                  court.

28                  J. Each judicial district that establishes a homelessness court probation  
29                  program shall adopt written policies and guidelines for the implementation of

1 a probation program in accordance with this Chapter. The policies and  
2 guidelines shall include provisions concerning the following:

3 (1) How to examine the defendant initially to determine if he is qualified  
4 for enrollment.

5 (2) How to advise the defendant of the program if the court has reason  
6 to believe the defendant may suffer from alcohol or drug addiction or mental  
7 health problems or illnesses.

8 (3) What licensed treatment programs are certified by the court.

9 K. Each homelessness court program shall develop a method of  
10 evaluation to measure its effectiveness. These evaluations shall be compiled  
11 annually and transmitted to the judicial administrator of the Supreme Court  
12 of Louisiana.

13 L.(1) Except as otherwise provided for by law, the registration and other  
14 records of a treatment facility are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any  
15 person not connected with the treatment facility or the homelessness court  
16 program and district attorney without the consent of the patient.

17 (2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not restrict  
18 the use of patients' records for the purpose of research into the cause and  
19 treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction and mental health illnesses,  
20 provided that such information shall not be published in a way that discloses the  
21 patient's name and identifying information.

22 M. No statement, or any information procured, with respect to the  
23 specific offenses with which the defendant is charged, which is made to any  
24 probation officer or program treatment worker subsequent to the granting of  
25 probation, shall be admissible in any civil or criminal action or proceeding,  
26 except a homelessness court program probation revocation proceeding.

27 N. A record of the fact that a person has participated in homelessness  
28 court program shall be sent to the office of the attorney general and shall be  
29 made available upon request to any district attorney for the purpose of

1 determining if a person has previously participated in a homelessness court  
2 program.

3 §5386. Dismissal of certain criminal charges upon completion of homelessness  
4 court probation program

5 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, as to any  
6 person eligible for participation in a homelessness court program as provided  
7 for under the provisions of this Chapter, when it appears that the best interests  
8 of the public and the defendant will be served, with the prior approval of the  
9 district attorney, the court may, without entering a judgment of guilt and with  
10 the consent of the person, defer proceedings and place him on probation upon  
11 such reasonable terms and conditions as may be required by the court and  
12 under the provisions of this Chapter.

13 B. Upon the defendant's violation of any of the terms or conditions of his  
14 probation, the court may revoke his probation, enter an adjudication of guilt,  
15 and impose sentence upon the person. The entering of the adjudication of guilt  
16 shall be retroactive to the date the defendant pled guilty or was convicted under  
17 Subsection A of this Section, but the imposition or execution of sentence shall  
18 not be retroactive.

19 C. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions of probation imposed in  
20 accordance with this Section, the court shall discharge the person and dismiss  
21 the proceedings against him.

22 D. The discharge and dismissal of charges pursuant to this Section shall  
23 be without court adjudication of guilt and shall not be deemed a conviction for  
24 purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of  
25 a crime, including the additional penalties imposed for second or subsequent  
26 convictions under R.S. 40:982. The discharge and dismissal of charges pursuant  
27 to this Section may occur only once with respect to any person.

28 Section 2. R.S. 14:107.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

29 §107.6. Unauthorized camping on public property

**A. The terms used in this Section shall have the following meanings:**

**(1) "Designated camp grounds" means any area or portion of an area of public property that has been designed, designated, or approved by a public entity for the allowable purpose of overnight use, such as camping.**

**(2) "Public property" means any property owned or controlled by any state, local, or political subdivision of the state.**

**B. Unauthorized camping on public property is the intentional use of any tent, shelter, or bedding constructed or arranged for the purpose of or in such a way to permit overnight use on public property that is not a designated camp ground.**

**C.(1) On a first conviction, the offender shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months or both.**

**(2) On a second or subsequent conviction, the offender shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars and imprisoned not less than one year nor more than two years in prison, with or without hard labor.**

**D. Any violation of the provisions of this Section may be eligible for the homelessness court program, if such a program is available in the jurisdiction and the offender meets all of the requirements set forth in the Homelessness Court Program Act, R.S. 13:5381 et seq., for participation in the program.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST

SB 196 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Proposed law creates the Homelessness Court Program Act.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings, including the critical need for criminal justice system programs to assist individuals who are experiencing homelessness in order to reduce the incidence of substance abuse disorders, untreated mental health issues, destruction and disruption of use of public property, public health and safety issues, and crimes committed by those experiencing homelessness.

Proposed law defines terms, including "participant" as a person currently experiencing homelessness who is subject to the jurisdiction of the homelessness court program. Participant may also be referred to as a person, defendant, probationer, or offender as context



requires.

Proposed law provides that each district court by rule may designate as a homelessness court program (program) in or more divisions of the district court to which participants are assigned and may establish a probation program to be administered by the presiding judge or judges thereof or by an employee designated by the court.

Proposed law provides for program goals and criteria, qualifications, and guidelines for participation.

Proposed law provides that upon the successful completion of the terms and conditions of the program, the court shall discharge the participant and dismiss the proceedings against him.

Proposed law provides that each program shall develop a method of evaluation to measure its effectiveness. Provides for annual submission of evaluations to the supreme court.

Proposed law creates the crime of unauthorized camping and provides for penalties.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 13:5381-5386 and R.S. 14:107.6)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Changes definition of a "participant" to mean a person currently experiencing homelessness who is subject to the jurisdiction of the homelessness court program. Participant may also be referred to as a person, defendant, probationer, or offender as context requires.
2. Makes technical changes.