

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 247

BY REPRESENTATIVES CREWS, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BRAUD, BROWN, BRYANT, CARRIER, CHENEVERT, COATES, DEWITT, DICKERSON, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, HEBERT, ILLG, LAFLEUR, MANDIE LANDRY, MACK, MCCORMICK, SCHAMERHORN, SPELL, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILEY, WYBLE, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to study and recommend any needed revisions to the Veterans Court Program Treatment Act and the Post-Conviction Veterans Mentor Program.

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives are grateful for the security, service, and sacrifice that our military veterans have provided; and

WHEREAS, the members recognize that many veterans suffer from co-occurring disorders of substance and opioid misuse and mental health issues and often return from military service damaged physically and mentally; and

WHEREAS, the members recognize these issues may lead the suffering veterans into a life of criminal activity and that it is incumbent upon the members to provide the cognitive and rehabilitative assistance these veterans need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has enacted the Veterans Court Program Treatment Act (R.S. 13:5361, et seq.), a specialized court program dedicated to assisting veterans in the criminal court system; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana also enacted the Post-Conviction Veterans Mentor Program (R.S. 15:1199.21, et seq.), a mentoring program working with the Veterans Court program to create an opportunity for veterans convicted of certain offenses to return to society and be successful in their reentry into the workplace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana, in adopting this Resolution, deems it necessary that the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs study and address the needs of Louisiana veterans and active duty military members involved with the criminal justice system and those suffering from self-medication by evaluating the Veterans Court Program Treatment Act and the Post-Conviction Veterans Mentor Program for the purpose of determining any necessary revisions that would better assist the legislature in providing needed services for our veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall provide a report on the status of its evaluation to the House Committee on Judiciary no later than March 9, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES