
DIGEST

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HB 792 Original

2026 Regular Session

McMahen

Abstract: Provides relative to the creation of screening procedures for the purpose of testing inmates for certain infectious diseases.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) to establish a program that provides standardized screening procedures for inmates who are housed at any La. correctional facility for the purpose of identifying infection with HIV and hepatitis C.

Proposed law permits an inmate to decline participation in the screening procedures, provides for the documentation of this refusal, and provides that refusal does not affect the inmate's classification status, privileges, or eligibility for services.

Proposed law defines the terms "correctional facility", "department", "inmate" and "screening procedures".

Proposed law provides for the administration and implementation of screening procedures at correctional facilities. Further permits each parish prison or jail to implement screening procedures subject to appropriation by the legislature for such purpose and provides reimbursement for participating parish prisons or jails.

Proposed law provides for duties of the DPS&C relative to funding for medical treatments and reimbursement for parish prisons and jails.

Proposed law provides that no parish governing authority or sheriff is financially responsible for the cost of antiviral or antiretroviral medications that are prescribed based on a positive test obtained pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that all test results and medical records obtained pursuant to proposed law are confidential as medical information and prohibits disclosure except in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws.

Proposed law provides for prioritization of treatment initiation in parish prison or jails for certain inmates and for the documented referral and discharge planning of inmates not initiated on treatment to ensure continuity of care.

Proposed law requires the DPS&C to submit an annual report to certain legislative committees and provides for the information to be contained within that report.

Proposed law authorizes the DPS&C to promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the APA to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Present law (R.S. 44:4.1(B)(8)) provides for a list of exemptions from public disclosure of certain information contained in present law (Title 15 of the La. R.S.).

Proposed law retains present law and adds all test results and medical records obtained pursuant to the screening program in proposed law.

Proposed law as applicable to parish prisons and jails is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.

Effective July 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 44:4.1(B)(8); Adds R.S. 15:831.1)