

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 76

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to notification of inmates released from a parish prison or jail

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:715(C) and to enact R.S. 15:715(D) and (E), relative to
3 notification of releases from parish prisons or jails; to provide for notification of
4 improperly released inmates; to provide for a definition; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:715(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:715(D) and
8 (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §715. Reporting of escapes or improper releases from parish prison facilities ~~and or~~
10 jails

11 * * *

12 C.(1) The sheriff, the highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the
13 person acting on behalf of the sheriff who is physically present at and in charge of
14 the parish prison or jail at the time it is determined that an inmate has been
15 improperly released from that facility, shall immediately, or as soon as practicable,
16 notify or take necessary steps to ensure that notification of the improper release is
17 provided to all of the following:

18 (a) The appropriate law enforcement agency.

19 (b) The victim of the crime for which the inmate was imprisoned.

20 (c) The district attorney.

21 (d) Local media outlets within the parish.

1 (2) The provisions of this Subsection apply to the improper release of an
 2 inmate who has been detained or incarcerated on the basis of an arrest or conviction
 3 for a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) that is a felony.

4 ~~C.~~ D. As used in this Section, the following terms have the following
 5 meanings:

6 (1) "Improper release" means the discharge of an inmate from a parish prison
 7 or jail through circumstances that include but are not limited to administrative or
 8 clerical error or mistake of staff.

9 ~~(+)~~ (2) "Law enforcement agency" means the Department of Public Safety
 10 and Corrections, office of public safety services and office of state police, and all
 11 police departments in the parish.

12 ~~(2)~~ (3) "Local media outlet" means a local news service, including but not
 13 limited to a print, broadcast, or online platform.

14 E. The notification provided to the local media outlet is at the discretion of
 15 the sheriff, highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the person acting on
 16 behalf of the sheriff.

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)]

HB 76 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

Abstract: Requires notification when an inmate is improperly released from a parish prison facility or jail.

Present law (R.S. 15:715) provides for the reporting of escapes from parish prison facilities or jails.

Proposed law generally retains present law and adds a notification requirement for inmates who are improperly released.

Proposed law requires the sheriff, the highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff who is physically present at and in charge of the parish prison or jail, at the time it is determined that an inmate has been improperly released from that facility, to immediately notify or take necessary steps to ensure that notification of the improper release is provided to all of the following:

(1) The appropriate law enforcement agency.

- (2) The victim of the crime for which the inmate was imprisoned.
- (3) The district attorney.
- (4) Local media outlets within the parish.

Proposed law applies to the improper release of an inmate who has been detained or incarcerated on the basis of an arrest or conviction for a felony crime of violence.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines the term "improper release".

Proposed law provides that notification to the local media outlet is at the discretion of the sheriff, highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff.

(Amends R.S. 15:715(C); Adds R.S. 15:715(D) and (E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Clarify that notification is required when it is determined that an inmate has been improperly released from a parish jail or prison.
2. Change the notification recipients as follows:
 - (a) Remove any known witness and any person specified in writing by the prosecuting district attorney.
 - (b) Add the district attorney and local media outlets within the parish.
3. Require notification only for the improper release of an inmate who has been detained or incarcerated on the basis of an arrest or conviction for a felony crime of violence.
4. Remove mismanagement of the prison or jail as a circumstance that constitutes "improper release".
5. Make technical changes.