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## DIGEST

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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.