

1 WHEREAS, only three behavioral health courts have been launched in the parishes
2 of Calcasieu, Rapides, and St. Tammany; and

3 WHEREAS, homeless individuals may also be more likely to have mental health
4 conditions which may increase their risk of involvement in the criminal justice system; and

5 WHEREAS, people with severe mental illness may be less able to cope with the
6 stresses of homelessness or may perpetrate criminal acts that are manifestations of their
7 illness; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2008, the rate of homelessness among jail inmates who had been
9 homeless in the previous year and homeless at the time of incarceration was approximately
10 seven and a half to eleven and one-third times the annual rate of homelessness in the general
11 population; and

12 WHEREAS, it is important to understand the needs of Louisiana residents who are
13 incarcerated and suffer from mental illness in order to understand the impact of untreated
14 mental illnesses on the criminal justice system and to reduce recidivism.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to study the
17 connection between mental health issues, homelessness, and the criminal justice system.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and
19 Specialty Court program will survey or invite academic institutions of higher learning or
20 policy institutes to present ideas on how they can assist with the study of the effectiveness,
21 impact, and operational costs of the behavioral health courts in Calcasieu Parish, Rapides
22 Parish, and St. Tammany Parish and report its findings and recommendations to the House
23 and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than February 1, 2027.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any university partner in this state that wishes
25 to contribute to this effort that is not solely focused on mental health, but also criminal
26 justice, sociology, and political science, shall be ideally considered for participation in this
27 study.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and
29 Corrections and the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide information, as necessary,
30 to produce the report requested in this Resolution.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and
2 Specialty Court program shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report
3 produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
4 as required by R.S. 24:772.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 judicial administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program.

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)]

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Moore

Requests the La. Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to study and make recommendations regarding behavioral health courts and report its findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than February 1, 2027.