

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; and

15 WHEREAS, a study was conducted and a report was presented to the legislature on
16 February 13, 2026, which recommended that further information should be gathered from
17 the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Office database.

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

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

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court drug and specialty
28 court program shall expand its study to include a survey of the potential effectiveness,
29 impact, and operational costs to implement behavioral health courts in Ouachita Parish, East
30 Baton Rouge Parish, and Orleans Parish, and report its findings and recommendations to the

1 House and Senate committees on health and welfare and judiciary no later than January 1,
2 2027.

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

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

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court drug and specialty
11 court program shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced
12 pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required
13 by R.S. 24:772.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 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)]

HCR 64 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

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 and judiciary no later than Feb. 1, 2027.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Expand the study to include the effectiveness, impact, and operational costs to implement behavioral health courts in Ouachita, East Baton Rouge, and Orleans Parishes.
2. Require a report to the House and Senate committees on judiciary no later than Jan. 1, 2027.
3. Make technical changes.