

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 656

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRYANT, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, CARPENTER, WILFORD
CARTER, CHASSION, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, DANA HENRY, TRAVIS
JOHNSON, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MOORE, MURRAY, NEWELL,
TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILEY, AND YOUNG

CORRECTIONS: Creates a pilot program that provides certain DPS&C programming and
services to inmates

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:830.4, relative programming for inmates; to provide for the establishment
3 of a pilot program; to provide for programming topics; to provide for attendance and
4 accessibility; to provide for duties of the Department of Public Safety and
5 Corrections; to provide for rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:830.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §830.4. Access to Programming Pilot Program; establishment

9 A. Subject to the availability of funds and appropriate resources, the
10 Department of Public Safety and Corrections is hereby authorized to establish the
11 Access to Programming Pilot Program, to be administered by inmates who are
12 qualified and approved by the department, for the purpose of making programming
13 available to all of the following:

14 (1) Juvenile offenders.

15 (2) Inmates sentenced to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
16 who are in the custody of the sheriff at a parish prison or jail.

17 B. The programming shall include all of the following topics:

1 (1) Rehabilitation services that encompass educational and vocational
 2 opportunities.

3 (2) Mental health services.

4 (3) Suicide awareness and prevention.

5 C. The department shall provide attendance options as follows:

6 (1) Through simultaneous audio-visual transmission for juveniles housed in
 7 juvenile facilities.

8 (2) In-person or through simultaneous audio-visual transmission for inmates
 9 housed in parish prisons or jails.

10 D. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall adopt rules and
 11 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the
 12 provisions of this Section.

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 656 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bryant

Abstract: Creates a pilot program that provides certain Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) programming and services to inmates.

Proposed law authorizes DPS&C, subject to the availability of funding and resources, to establish the Access to Programming Pilot Program to be administered by inmates who are qualified and approved by DPS&C for the purpose of making programming available to certain offenders.

Proposed law provides for services to be included within the programming and options for attendance.

Proposed law requires DPS&C to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the APA to implement the provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 15:830.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the Access to Programming Pilot Program is to be administered by inmates who are qualified and approved by the department.