

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 391

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARTINEZ

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for a task force to study the effectiveness, operations, counseling and treatment services, funding, mental health evaluations, and outcomes associated with the 18th Judicial District Court Drug Court Program and behavioral health services provided to incarcerated individuals within the 18th Judicial District.

WHEREAS, substance abuse, addiction, and untreated mental illness continue to impact families, public safety, workforce participation, and the criminal justice system throughout this state; and

WHEREAS, specialty courts, including drug courts, have been recognized as alternatives to incarceration that may reduce recidivism and improve long-term recovery outcomes; and

WHEREAS, counseling services, behavioral health treatment, accountability measures, and recovery support are critical components of successful specialty court programs; and

WHEREAS, incarcerated individuals suffering from mental illness often require timely evaluations, treatment coordination, counseling, medication management, and continuity of care; and

WHEREAS, the 18th Judicial District Court Drug Court Program serves participants from Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge Parishes and plays an important role in rehabilitation and accountability efforts; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has an interest in understanding the effectiveness, financial impact, counseling practices, mental health services, and long-term outcomes associated with specialty court programs and correctional behavioral health services operating within this state; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the 18th Judicial District Court Drug Court Program and behavioral health services may assist policymakers in identifying barriers to treatment access, funding needs, counseling effectiveness, and opportunities for program improvement or expansion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the 18th Judicial District Drug Court and Behavioral Health Services Task Force to study the operations, effectiveness, counseling services, treatment implementation, mental health evaluations, and continuity of care associated with the 18th Judicial District Court Drug Court Program and behavioral health services provided to incarcerated individuals within the 18th Judicial District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) One representative from the 18th Judicial District Court or his designee.
- (2) One representative from the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office or his designee.
- (3) One representative from the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (4) One representative from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.
- (5) One licensed mental health professional or behavioral health provider serving the district or his designee.
- (6) One licensed substance abuse counselor serving the district or his designee.
- (7) One representative from a local correctional facility within the district or his designee.
- (8) One representative from workforce development or reentry services or his designee.
- (9) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (10) One member appointed by the president of the Senate or his designee.
- (11) The state representative who represents House District No. 60.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the representative from the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office shall serve as the chairman of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall examine and provide findings regarding the following:

- (1) Recidivism rates and participant outcomes.
- (2) Graduation and completion rates of the drug court program.
- (3) Counseling and behavioral health treatment services utilized by the program.
- (4) The implementation, oversight, and effectiveness of counseling services and recovery programming.
- (5) The availability and timeliness of mental health evaluations for incarcerated individuals requiring behavioral health services.
- (6) Coordination between correctional facilities, behavioral health providers, and treatment programs.
- (7) Medication continuity and follow-up treatment services after release or program completion.
- (8) Treatment availability and barriers to access.
- (9) Employment and workforce reintegration outcomes.
- (10) Cost comparisons between incarceration and specialty court participation.
- (11) Funding sources and sustainability of the program and related behavioral health services.
- (12) Recommendations for improving counseling, treatment, mental health services, and recovery outcomes while reducing repeat offenses.
- (13) Opportunities for program expansion or additional legislative support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than sixty days after the effective date of this Resolution, at the call of the chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff support to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B no later than February 1, 2027. Any recommendations or proposals shall be submitted by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the entities named in this Resolution to serve or be represented on the task force.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES