

**ACT No. 785**

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG AND CHENEVERT

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:828.5, relative to inmates; to provide for issuance of certain documentation  
3 and certification to inmates; to provide for criteria; to provide for restrictions; to  
4 provide for a definition; to provide for duties of the Department of Public Safety and  
5 Corrections; to provide for duties of the office of motor vehicles; to provide for  
6 rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 15:828.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §828.5. Post-release employment; relevant documentation

10 A. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide an inmate  
11 who has been housed in a state correctional facility, has been released from a term  
12 of imprisonment that resulted from the commission of a felony offense, and who has  
13 designated his intended residence within this state with the relevant documentation  
14 to assist with the obtaining of post-release employment.

15 B.(1) The department shall coordinate with the office of motor vehicles to  
16 do both of the following:

17 (a) Identify whether an inmate has any form of a state identification card or  
18 a driver's license and begin the process of gathering the documentation required for  
19 the issuance of a special identification card pursuant to R.S. 40:1321 within nine  
20 months prior to the release of the inmate.

21 (b) Provide a special identification card to any eligible inmate who does not  
22 have a current state identification card or driver's license upon his release from

1 custody. The special identification card shall be issued, replaced, canceled, and  
2 denied in the same manner as a driver's license pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 32 of  
3 the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

4 (2) The office of motor vehicles shall do both of the following:

5 (a)(i) Permit an inmate to use a copy of his birth certificate along with his  
6 master prison record issued by the department as a valid form of photo identification  
7 in order to obtain a special identification card.

8 (ii) For the purposes of this Subsection, "master prison record" means a  
9 detailed calculation, maintained by the department, of the prison sentence of an  
10 inmate that determines his release date and includes credit for time served, good  
11 behavior, and program participation.

12 (b) Determine and assess a reasonable fee for the issuance of a special  
13 identification card.

14 (3) A special identification card issued with a master prison record to an  
15 inmate is nonrenewable, nontransferable, and is valid for a period of six years from  
16 the month of issuance.

17 (4) The department may utilize any available funds, including but not limited  
18 to inmate trust funds, existing department funds, and donations to cover the costs  
19 associated with the implementation and administration of this Section and the  
20 purchase of special identification cards.

21 C. The provisions of this Section apply only to inmates who receive a special  
22 identification card pursuant to R.S. 40:1321, who are in the physical custody and  
23 control of the department, and who are housed in a state correctional facility.

24 D. For the purposes of assisting an inmate with obtaining post-release  
25 employment, the department shall provide an inmate with all of the following:

26 (1) A copy of the educational and vocational training credentials or  
27 certifications of the inmate earned during incarceration, if applicable.

28 (2) A copy of the work record of the inmate, if applicable.

29 (3) A copy of the birth certificate of the inmate, if obtainable.

1                    (4) A social security card or a replacement social security card of the inmate,  
2                    if obtainable.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_