

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct a comprehensive

3 statewide review of factors affecting the state's incarceration and recidivism rates,

4 including parish-level data, and to provide a report of its findings prior to the

5 convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, according to a study by the Pew Center on the States and the Bureau of

7 Justice Statistics published by the United States Department of Justice, Louisiana has the

8 highest incarceration rate in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, with this high incarceration rate comes a high monetary cost that is

10 borne by the taxpayers in Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is to

12 enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders, effective

13 probation and parole supervision, and proven rehabilitative strategies that successfully

14 reintegrate offenders into society; and

15 WHEREAS, successful offender rehabilitation and reintegration into the community

16 is essential to reducing recidivism rates which has a direct impact on public safety, crime

17 prevention, and the cost of state and local criminal justice systems; and

18 WHEREAS, to this end, it is imperative that the financial resources of this state be

19 used to support the implementation of the most successful and effective rehabilitative and

20 reentry programs for offenders as proven by data collected specifically for this purpose; and

1 WHEREAS, a growing number of states have successfully implemented criminal
2 justice reforms designed to improve public safety, hold offenders accountable, and protect
3 taxpayer dollars.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, to better understand the potential needs and
5 opportunities for reform in Louisiana, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the
6 Department of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct a comprehensive statewide review
7 of factors affecting the state's incarceration and recidivism rates, including parish-level data.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this review, the department shall
9 do all of the following:

10 (1) Evaluate the availability and efficacy of alternatives to incarceration across
11 various parishes and the utilization rates of such alternatives among various parishes.

12 (2) Identify the extent to which actuarial, validated risk and needs assessments are
13 being used to inform sentencing, revocation, and release decisions and the extent to which
14 best practices such as swift, certain, and graduated sanctions and incentives are being used
15 to promote compliance with supervision and intervention services.

16 (3) Examine the cost of services currently being utilized and the sources of revenues
17 for those services, including but not limited to state funds.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon this review, the department shall
19 prepare a report that includes the following information:

20 (1) Evaluation of each parish's performance in supporting the department's strategic
21 goals of preventing and diverting more individuals from entering the criminal justice system,
22 providing appropriate and less restrictive community-based sanctions and services, reserving
23 serious sanctions for individuals who pose the greatest risk to public safety, and focusing on
24 data-driven responses and evidence-based practices.

25 (2) Identification of additional community resources and policy changes at the state
26 and local levels that would be needed to reduce incarceration and recidivism while
27 enhancing public safety, including options for modifying the state's funding streams for
28 parish jails to better align fiscal incentives with these strategic goals.

29 (3) Recommendations and strategies that can be implemented by the department in
30 partnership with local jurisdictions, including public, private, and nonprofit entities, to

1 address any identified deficiencies and to assist in developing a statewide, coordinated
2 response across all of Louisiana's communities to support the department's strategic goals.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is encouraged to seek outside
4 consultation to explore operating models and community corrections practices, including
5 those from other states, that are successfully applying the principles of justice reinvestment
6 to accomplish the creation of effective community-based correctional interventions in local
7 jurisdictions.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department may seek input from or utilize
9 any reports prepared by the Louisiana District Attorney Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs'
10 Association, the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Louisiana Public
11 Defender Board, the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, or any other entity or organization
12 deemed appropriate by the department.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department may seek assistance from staff
14 of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice
15 in conducting this review.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this report shall be submitted to the
17 governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives prior
18 to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
20 to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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)]

Leger

HCR No. 146

Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct a comprehensive statewide review of factors affecting the state's incarceration and recidivism rates, including parish-level data, and to provide a report of its findings prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill.

1. Changed the date of reporting of the findings from December 1, 2014, to prior to the convening of the 2015 R.S.
2. Added that DPS&C may seek input from various criminal justice stakeholders.
3. Added that the staff of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice may assist DPS&C in conducting the review.