

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the continued funding of reentry courts in Louisiana to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for offenders re-entering society.

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Louisiana House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana recognized the critical need to reduce recidivism in the criminal justice system and, as a result, created reentry courts by Act No. 399 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, reentry courts are specialized courts that improve public safety through the use of judicial oversight; and

WHEREAS, over time, the Louisiana Legislature created thirteen reentry courts to address the needs of offenders, who will eventually re-enter society, by providing skills, training, education, and counseling while the offender is still incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, upon release, reentry courts closely supervise offenders, provide links to social services, and monitor the transition of offenders back into society through extensive case management; and

WHEREAS, a key element of the success of reentry courts is job placement for the offender upon release from prison, which requires the support and assistance of local businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of reentry courts is for offenders to successfully re-enter society upon release and become a productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, the recidivism rates for reentry court participants are significantly less than the average rate of recidivism which will result in increased savings to the criminal justice system and a decrease in the crime rate in Louisiana over time; and

WHEREAS, given the current fiscal condition of the state, it would be of great benefit to provide continued funding to reentry courts in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the continued funding of reentry courts in Louisiana to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for offenders re-entering society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES