

1 WHEREAS, the technology provided to deaf and hard of hearing people in most U.S.
2 prisons is a teletypewriter, a machine developed in the 1960s that requires users to type
3 messages; however, this technology is outdated and many deaf and hard of hearing inmates
4 are unable to communicate with family members and loved ones; and

5 WHEREAS, inmates who are able to keep in touch with their families and loved ones
6 are less likely to commit more crimes; and

7 WHEREAS, video phones in all state and parish facilities would ensure deaf and
8 hard of hearing inmates are not isolated from communicating with others.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and
11 Corrections and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association to ensure that video phones are available
12 in state and parish facilities for deaf and hard of hearing inmates.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted
14 to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

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)]

HR 133 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Smith

Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and the La. Sheriffs' Association to ensure that video phones are available in all state and parish facilities for deaf and hard of hearing inmates.