

1 processes related to women's incarceration, and input from all criminal justice stakeholders
2 is essential in the development and implementation of cost-effective changes; and

3 WHEREAS, it is beneficial to the entire population of the state of Louisiana to
4 develop a broadly diverse and cross disciplinary task force to study state sentencing and
5 correction systems for women with the goal of producing a body of research resulting in
6 making specific policy recommendations to reduce correctional populations, implement
7 placement and behavioral practices which address and reduce violence and harassment based
8 upon gender, and hold all parties in the correctional system responsible for their actions; and

9 WHEREAS, it is also beneficial to create a task force to prioritize reinvestment into
10 successful strategies that reduce recidivism and increase both public health and safety; and

11 WHEREAS, the Sentencing Commission is limited to providing recommendations
12 relating to sentencing and post-conviction relief and is therefore unable to complete a
13 comprehensive assessment of corrections administration, offender supervision, alternatives
14 to incarceration, and sentencing structure specifically as they apply to women.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 authorize and direct the creation of the Louisiana Women's and Incarceration Task Force.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is hereby authorized and directed
18 to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's criminal
19 justice system as it relates to women. The information gathered shall be used to develop
20 policy recommendations for the legislature to:

21 (1) Develop practices and processes that avoid placing additional trauma or harm
22 upon women as they navigate the criminal justice system.

23 (2) Reduce both the correctional population and recidivism of women.

24 (3) Address the holistic health of women to include access to hormone therapy,
25 prenatal care, reproductive health, access to other medicine to maintain health, consistent
26 health screenings, mental health access, and access to substance use and recovery resources.

27 (4) Increase and evaluate programming available to women during and after
28 incarceration with the intention of self-determined development.

29 (5) Increase and ensure the availability of gender responsive resources to support the
30 dignity and quality of life of all women.

1 (6) Reinvest savings into strategies shown to decrease recidivism, including
2 improved reentry outcomes, diversion programs, and employment opportunities.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be bipartisan and shall be
4 composed of the following at-large members:

5 (1) Four representatives of criminal justice agencies designated by the governor.

6 (2) Four community members with significant and relevant experience or expertise
7 designated by the governor.

8 (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
9 House.

10 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

11 (5) One member who is a representative of a faith-based community appointed by
12 Catholic Charities.

13 The chair of the task force shall be the secretary of the Department of Public Safety
14 and Corrections, or his designee. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by and from the
15 membership of the task force.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force
17 shall constitute a quorum and shall meet at predetermined and agreed upon dates by the task
18 force, enforced by the chairman, or upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the task force
19 members. All members must be notified in writing of all meetings at least two weeks before
20 the date on which a meeting of the task force is scheduled.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus and
22 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide the administrative assistance
23 and staffing as may be necessary in order to enable the task force to accomplish its goals.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall be conducted in collaboration
25 with Operation Restoration and other community organizations and stakeholders.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may request the Louisiana
27 Legislative Women's Caucus, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and the
28 office of the judicial administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court to provide relevant data
29 and staff expertise upon request.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet no less than six times
2 per year beginning August 1, 2018, and ending by August 1, 2019, with the option of
3 extending.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit a final
5 report that contains a detailed statement of the findings and policy recommendations of the
6 task force to the governor, leadership of the Louisiana Legislature, and the chief justice of
7 the Louisiana Supreme Court. The report shall be made available to the public.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
9 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)]

HCR 27 Re-Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Smith

Creates the Louisiana Women's Incarceration Task Force to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's criminal justice system as it relates to women. The information gathered shall be used to develop policy recommendations for the legislature to:

- (1) Develop practices and processes that avoid placing additional trauma or harm upon women as they navigate the criminal justice system.
- (2) Reduce both the correctional population and recidivism of women.
- (3) Develop a group of practices and processes throughout the criminal justice system that allow people to navigate these systems with affirmation of their self-determined gender identity.
- (4) Address the holistic health of women to include access to hormone therapy, prenatal care, reproductive health, access to other medicine to maintain health, consistent health screenings, mental health access, and access to substance use and recovery resources.
- (5) Increase and evaluate programming available to women during and after incarceration with the intention of self-determined development.
- (6) Increase and ensure the availability of gender responsive resources to support the dignity and quality of life of all women.
- (7) Reinvest savings into strategies shown to decrease recidivism, including improved reentry outcomes, diversion programs, and employment pipelines.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make changes to the composition of the task force.
2. Provide that the secretary, instead of the assistant secretary, of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, or his designee, shall serve as chair of the task force.
3. Provide that the work of the task force shall begin on August 1, 2018, and shall end on August 1, 2019, with the option of extending.

The House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill:

1. Remove provisions relative to people of transgender.
2. Change the composition of the task force by removing the president of the Louisiana Family Forum or his designee and adding one representative of a faith-based community appointed by Catholic Charities.