

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVES MOORE AND JONES

CRIME: Repeals the crime of vagrancy

1 AN ACT

2 To repeal R.S. 14:107, relative to the crime of vagrancy; to repeal the crime of vagrancy;
3 and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 14:107 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

6 Section 2. The repeal of R.S. 14:107 pursuant to this Act shall have prospective
7 application only and shall have no effect on the lawfulness of any arrest, conviction, or
8 sentence which occurred prior to the effective date of this Act.

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)]

HB 137 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Moore

Abstract: Repeals the crime of vagrancy.

Present law provides that the following persons are and shall be guilty of vagrancy:

- (1) Habitual drunkards.
- (2) Persons who live in houses of ill fame or who habitually associate with prostitutes.
- (3) Able-bodied persons who beg or solicit alms, provided that this article shall not apply to persons soliciting alms for bona fide religious, charitable or eleemosynary organizations with the authorization thereof.
- (4) Habitual gamblers or persons who for the most part maintain themselves by gambling.
- (5) Able-bodied persons without lawful means of support who do not seek employment and take employment when it is available to them.

- (6) Able-bodied persons of the age of majority who obtain their support gratis from persons receiving old age pensions or from persons receiving welfare assistance from the state.
- (7) Persons who loaf the streets habitually or who frequent the streets habitually at late or unusual hours of the night, or who loiter around any public place of assembly, without lawful business or reason to be present.
- (8) Persons found in or near any structure, movable, vessel, or private grounds, without being able to account for their lawful presence therein.
- (9) Prostitutes.

Present law provides that whoever commits the crime of vagrancy shall be fined not more than \$200, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that proposed law shall have prospective application only and shall have no effect on the lawfulness of any arrest, conviction, or sentence which occurred prior to the effective date of proposed law.

(Repeals R.S. 14:107)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add that proposed law shall have prospective application only and shall have no effect on the lawfulness of any arrest, conviction, or sentence which occurred prior to the effective date of proposed law.