

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 784 (HB 159)

2026 Regular Session

Jackson

New law authorizes the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, not later than Jan. 1, 2027, to implement a pilot program using active electronic monitoring of eligible defendants as an alternative to traditional imprisonment.

New law provides for eligibility conditions that include the criminal offense that the defendant is charged with along with determinations and risk assessments made by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

New law requires the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office to develop, adopt, and implement rules and regulations for the program and provides for criteria to be included in the rules and regulations.

New law requires the sheriff, as a condition of the defendant's participation in the program, to ensure the defendant participates in monthly behavioral health checks with a licensed mental health provider if the risk assessment conducted pursuant to new law identifies behavioral health factors reasonably related to supervision or compliance risk.

New law describes what constitutes "compliance" and provides for termination of participation in the program if the defendant fails to comply.

New law requires that notice be provided to the defendant in writing of the conditions imposed for participation in the program and requires that the defendant agree in writing to the conditions. Further provides that participation in the program does not in any way negate or nullify the bail obligations as set by the court.

New law requires any electronic monitoring provider who is chosen or contracted with to enforce new law to comply with the provisions of existing law (R.S. 15:571.36 and 571.37).

New law prohibits a defendant from being admitted to the program prior to collaboration and coordination between the court, the sheriff, and the district attorney for approval of the defendant's participation in the program and permits the court, at any time on its own motion, to prohibit or terminate the initial or continued participation of a defendant in the program.

New law entitles the sheriff to the collection of a sum of not less than the per diem fee authorized by existing law (R.S. 13:5535(1)) to be applied to the funding of the program upon negotiation and agreement with the parish governing authority.

New law further permits the sheriff to establish a fee, subject to agreement with the parish governing authority and the sheriff, and provides that funds obtained pursuant to new law are not considered surplus funds.

New law permits the sheriff to apply for funding and grants from any source he deems appropriate for administration of the program and to engage in cooperative endeavor agreements with other government agencies, departments, or nonprofit organizations whose missions are compatible with the goals and objectives of the program.

New law permits the sheriff to terminate the participation of any defendant in the program for failure to comply with the conditions of the program and requires the physical return of the defendant to the parish jail or any other facility as the sheriff deems appropriate for the purpose of continuing the pretrial detention of the defendant.

New law provides for a list of expenses, relative to the defendant's participation in the program, that are not the responsibility of the sheriff or the parish governing authority.

New law provides for an evaluation of the program, reporting requirements pertaining to the program, recipients of the report, and a termination date for the program that is contingent on the construction or renovation of certain facilities or structures in Caddo Parish.

New law provides for a limitation of liability as it pertains to harm caused by a program participant unless the plaintiff, by clear and convincing evidence, proves that certain

circumstances have occurred relative to the program's administration and acts of a program participant.

New law further provides for a phasing out of participants upon termination of the program.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 15:571.35.2)