

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and make

3 recommendations relative to the expansion of the workforce development sentencing

4 program to include additional judicial district reentry courts.

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections workforce

6 development sentencing program was created pursuant to Act No. 399 of the 2012 Regular

7 Session of the Legislature; and

8 WHEREAS, the program requires the department in conjunction with the reentry

9 division of district courts to identify eligible candidates who are suitable for the workforce

10 development sentencing program and to assist the offenders in becoming more productive

11 members of society upon their return to the community, thereby reducing recidivism and

12 improving public safety; and

13 WHEREAS, since the enactment of Act No. 399 of the 2012 Regular Session of the

14 Legislature, there are currently four judicial district courts that are authorized to assign a

15 certain division of the court as a reentry division of court, the Nineteenth Judicial District

16 Court, the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court, the Eleventh Judicial District Court, and

17 the Criminal District Court for the parish of Orleans; however, several judicial district courts

18 have expressed their interest in expanding the workforce development sentencing program

19 to their districts; and

1 WHEREAS, the program is conducted at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, where
2 there are currently one hundred twenty slots available for offenders, of which one hundred
3 nine are filled; and

4 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that by the end of 2014, there will be an additional
5 fourteen slots that will become available in increments as offenders graduate from the
6 program throughout the year; and

7 WHEREAS, there are multiple judicial districts that have expressed an interest in
8 participating in the program; however, due to the limited availability for housing the
9 offenders at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, those judicial districts are restricted from
10 creating reentry courts and providing the opportunity to offer rehabilitation to offenders in
11 their districts.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
14 to study the feasibility and make recommendations relative to the expansion of the
15 workforce development sentencing program to include additional judicial district reentry
16 courts.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
18 make a written report to the House Committee on Judiciary detailing their findings no later
19 than January 1, 2015.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 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)]

Jefferson

HR No. 78

Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and make recommendations relative to the expansion of the workforce development sentencing program to include additional judicial district reentry courts.