

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY REPRESENTATIVES JEFFERSON AND GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Department 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.

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections workforce development sentencing program was created pursuant to Act No. 399 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the program requires the department in conjunction with the reentry division of district courts to identify eligible candidates who are suitable for the workforce development sentencing program and to assist the offenders in becoming more productive members of society upon their return to the community, thereby reducing recidivism and improving public safety; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of Act No. 399 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature, there are currently four judicial district courts that are authorized to assign a certain division of the court as a reentry division of court, the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court, the Eleventh Judicial District Court, and the Criminal District Court for the parish of Orleans; however, several judicial district courts have expressed their interest in expanding the workforce development sentencing program to their districts; and

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department 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.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES