

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 175

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

CORRECTIONS: Requests the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to develop a work release program for persons convicted of offenses involving the failure to pay child support

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections make  
3 recommendations for the development of a work release program which would be  
4 suited for individuals convicted of offenses involving the failure to pay child support  
5 in order to facilitate employment and the fulfillment of child support obligations, and  
6 make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature prior to the convening of the  
7 2016 Regular Session.

8           WHEREAS, the obligation to support children is one of the most fundamental and  
9   basic obligations; and

10           WHEREAS, R.S. 9:315 provides, in part, that "child support is a continuous  
11   obligation of both parents" and that "children are entitled to share in the current income of  
12   both parents"; and

13 WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides for the awarding and collecting of child support  
14 obligations to support Louisiana children; and

15 WHEREAS, the failure to pay a child support obligation may result in criminal  
16 prosecution through either criminal neglect of family or the failure to pay a child support  
17 obligation, and can result in incarceration of individuals who are convicted of those offenses;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, incarceration often results in a person having no opportunity to obtain  
20 necessary funds and further perpetuates the failure to pay child support; and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana law also has established work release programs which are  
2 operated either by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or the sheriff; and

3 WHEREAS, work release programs are designed to allow individuals who are  
4 convicted of certain crimes an opportunity to learn a skill or trade and to successfully reenter  
5 society upon completion of their sentences; and

6 WHEREAS, traditional work release programs and eligibility criteria are not well  
7 suited for persons convicted for failure to pay child support obligations due to the average  
8 length of incarceration of those offenders.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 request that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections make recommendations for the  
11 development of a work release program which would be suited for individuals convicted of  
12 offenses involving the failure to pay child support in order to facilitate employment and the  
13 fulfillment of child support obligations and make recommendations to the Louisiana  
14 Legislature prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
16 work in conjunction with the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, the Louisiana Sheriffs'  
17 Association, the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure Committee of the Louisiana  
18 State Law Institute, the Department of Children and Family Services, and any other  
19 stakeholders it deems appropriate in conducting this study.

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

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#### 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)]

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HCR 175 Original

2015 Regular Session

Jefferson

Requests the DPS&C to make recommendations for the development of a work release program for individuals convicted of offenses involving the failure to pay child support in order to facilitate employment and the fulfillment of child support obligations and make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature prior to the convening of the 2016 R.S.