

**Thibaut (HB 781)**

**Act No. 342**

Existing law provides for reentry programs for offenders housed in the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections facilities.

New law retains existing law and extends reentry programs to offenders housed in local jails through the creation of the Offender Reentry Support Pilot Program to be operated in Pointe Coupee Parish.

New law provides that the program shall include all of the following components:

- (1) An offender rehabilitation and accountability plan - providing for defined goals following incarceration, resolution of any behavioral issues, and introduction to community leaders where the offender will be released.
- (2) An educational and job skills training plan - providing vocational and on-the-job training prior to release.
- (3) An employment preparation plan - providing work skills, communication, attitude, and personal responsibility.
- (4) A post-release support plan - including housing plans, health care, insurance, transportation, and substance abuse treatment.

New law authorizes the sheriff to research potential funding sources for the pilot program and obtain funds from any private, federal, state, and local sources available for such initiatives as are developed and undertaken by the program. Such funds shall be used exclusively for the purposes of the program.

New law requires a report from the sheriff to the legislature regarding the implementation of the pilot program.

New law provides for an advisory council appointed by the sheriff to assist with the operation of the program.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 15:745-745.3)