

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Department of Education to work collaboratively to identify the solutions and resources necessary to fully address the barriers that impede the successful reintegration of incarcerated persons back into society and to provide a report of its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, with high incarceration and recidivism rates comes a high monetary cost that is borne by the taxpayers in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is to enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders, effective probation and parole supervision, and proven rehabilitative strategies that successfully reintegrate offenders into society; and

WHEREAS, successful offender rehabilitation and reintegration into the community is essential to reducing recidivism rates which has a direct impact on public safety, crime prevention, and the cost of state and local criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, to this end, it is imperative that the financial resources of this state be used to support the implementation of the most successful and effective rehabilitative and reentry programs for offenders and that those entities tasked with providing those services have a complete understanding of the critical links to successful reintegration and the current barriers incarcerated persons face upon their release back into society.

THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Department of Education to work collaboratively to identify the solutions and

resources necessary to fully address the barriers that impede the successful reintegration of incarcerated persons back into society and to provide a report of its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of this work, the departments are urged to work together to better understand the critical links to successful reintegration of incarcerated persons back into society, including but not limited to transportation, family support, employment, mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing, community apathy, and education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments are urged and requested to obtain and share data and information necessary to complete this work and to request necessary data and information from the relevant agencies and departments with oversight of each of the critical links to successful reintegration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information and data collected from each agency or department and reported to the legislature shall include but is not limited to the number of persons in any programs administered by the agency or department to service persons who are incarcerated, under supervision, or who are released from incarceration or supervision; the education level of such persons; the age, race, and gender of the persons; the parish where the person was incarcerated or under supervision; the number and type of mental health diagnoses faced by persons participating in the programs; the number of persons with substance abuse disorders or with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders; the cost of services per individual; the duration of services; and any follow-up or aftercare services provided by the agency or department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include the current recidivism rate and the number of persons who recidivate based upon a technical violation of their probation or parole conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies and departments providing information and data pursuant to this Resolution are directed to provide any requested information on the barriers that prevent the agency or department from achieving desired outcomes with respect to successful rehabilitation and decreased recidivism, as well as information and data on the cost or fiscal impact of implementing the necessary services and programs in this regard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments may seek input and support from any entities or organizations, including community-based resources, that they deem appropriate and necessary for their work including but not limited to the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretaries of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana Department of Health and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE