

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSALIND JONES AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct a statewide evaluation of the commodities offered through canteen services, to study the feasibility of developing uniform prices for all commodities offered to inmates, and to report its findings prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session.

WHEREAS, according to a recent study by the PEW Center on the States, Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many criminal penalties in Louisiana provide for mandatory terms of imprisonment and do not allow for the suspension of sentence, probation, parole, or diminution of sentence for good behavior; and

WHEREAS, because of the high incarceration rate in Louisiana, many inmates who are sentenced to the department are housed in local jails and private correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, all correctional facilities in the state offer canteen services to inmates; and

WHEREAS, some inmates have very little income and are not in a position to avoid or object to prices which may be inflated or exceed retail value; and

WHEREAS, there are inconsistencies with the pricing of items offered at various correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, there should be uniformity in the prices of commodities offered to inmates incarcerated in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct a statewide evaluation of the commodities offered through canteen services, to study the

feasibility of developing uniform prices for all commodities offered to inmates, and to report its findings prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, in conducting the study, is hereby requested to work with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the office of the attorney general, and any other agencies or entities which the department deems appropriate.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE