

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 457

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to solitary confinement

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:865(D) and (E), relative to solitary confinement; to provide for access to
3 certain materials during periods of solitary confinement; to provide for definitions;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:865(D) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §865. Solitary confinement abolished

8 * * *

9 D. Any prisoner in a penal or correctional institution who is placed into
10 solitary confinement shall be provided access to all educational materials he would
11 otherwise have access to in the least restrictive housing available at the institution.
12 The supervisor with the highest level of authority who is present at the institution
13 shall provide such educational materials to the prisoner within twenty-four hours of
14 placement in solitary confinement, regardless of the actions of the prisoner, including
15 but not limited to the failure to request such materials.

16 E. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the
17 following meanings:

18 (1) "Educational materials" means any program offered at that penal or
19 correctional institution, including but not limited to vocational training and
20 certification, career and technical education, special education, high school

1 equivalency preparation, literacy, adult basic education, developmental studies,
2 higher education degree programs, and any other programs that are or will be offered
3 at the penal or correctional institution.

4 (2) "Solitary confinement" means the involuntary placement of a prisoner
5 alone into special management housing where the prisoner is confined to an
6 individual cell separated from the general population for any reason that may include
7 but not be limited to administrative, preventative, protective, disciplinary, or
8 investigative reasons.

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)]

HB 457 Original

2025 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Provides relative to solitary confinement.

Present law (R.S. 15:865) provides for a prohibition on the use of solitary confinement, except in certain circumstances.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that any prisoner in a penal or correctional institution who is placed into solitary confinement shall be provided access to all educational materials he would otherwise have access to in the least restrictive housing available at the institution.

Proposed law provides that the supervisor with the highest level of authority who is present at the institution shall provide such educational materials to the prisoner within 24 hours of placement in solitary confinement, regardless of the actions of the prisoner, including but not limited to the failure to request such materials.

Proposed law defines the terms "educational materials" and "solitary confinement".

(Adds R.S. 15:865(D) and (E))