

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

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

JUVENILES: Provides relative to the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(a) and 951(C) and (E) and to enact R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(d), relative to children; to provide relative to the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program; to provide relative to allocation of certain monies; to provide for administration of the program; to provide for an intermediary; to provide relative to the definition of "youth or youths"; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(a) and 951(C) and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(d) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§827.3. Savings attributable to criminal justice reforms; data collection and reporting requirements to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

A.

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(2) Each fiscal year, the annual savings shall be allocated as follows:

(a) ~~Fifteen~~ Twelve percent shall be allocated to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to award incentive grants to parishes, judicial districts, and nonprofit community partner organizations to expand evidence-backed prison alternatives and reduce admissions to the state prison system.

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- (1) 15% shall be allocated to the DPS&C to award incentive grants to parishes, judicial districts, and nonprofit community partner organizations to expand evidence-backed prison alternatives and reduce admissions to the state prison system.
- (2) 10% shall be allocated to the La. Comm. on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice to award competitive grants for victim services, including but not limited to victim safety assessments and safety planning, trauma-informed treatment and services for victims and survivors, shelters and transitional housing for domestic violence victims and their children, batterers' intervention programming, and victim-focused education and training for justice system professionals.
- (3) 45% shall be allocated to the La. Community and Technical College System for targeted investments in educational and vocational training aimed at recidivism reduction programming for adult and juvenile offenders. Further provides that such funds shall be utilized in connection with any other available sources of federal or state aid or training funds.

Proposed law amends present law to change the allocation of the annual savings to the DPS&C from 15% to 12%.

Proposed law allocates 2% of the annual savings to the La. Children's Trust Fund Board to administer and operate the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program as provided in present law (R.S. 15:951).

Present law (R.S. 15:951) provides for the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 15:951(C)) provides that the program shall be administered by selected nonprofit groups as well as the DPS&C, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the Dept. of Education, and the La. Workforce Commission.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the La. Children's Trust Fund Board as an administering entity.

Proposed law provides that the La. Children's Trust Fund Board is hereby named as the intermediary of the program with the authority to manage or administer funds and address any changes in program funding as needed.

Present law (R.S. 15:951(E)) defines the term "youth or youths" as a person who has not attained 18 years of age.

Proposed law amends present law to define the term "youth or youths" as a person who has attained at least 16 years of age and not more than 24 years of age.

(Amends R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(a) and 951(C) and (E); Adds R.S. 15:827.3(A)(2)(d))