

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 159

2026 Regular Session

Jackson

June 1, 2026

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 159 by Representative Jackson, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Judiciary C (#3178) be adopted.
2. That the set of Senate Legislative Bureau Amendments (#3379) be adopted.
3. That Senate Floor Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 by Senator Jenkins (#4129) be adopted.
4. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Morris (#4169) be adopted.
5. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, after line 29, insert the following:

"(e) The establishment of a bid process, in compliance with the public bid law of this state, for the selection of electronic monitoring providers to administer the program.

"(f) Qualifications for participating electronic monitoring providers, including but not limited to the requirement that providers have general liability insurance in an amount of not less than one million dollars."

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative Beryl A. Amedée

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Senator Gerald Boudreaux

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Representative Steven Jackson

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Senator Sam L. Jenkins Jr.

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Representative Debbie Villio

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Senator John C. "Jay" Morris III

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)]

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**HB 159**

**2026 Regular Session**

**Jackson**

**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Creates a pretrial incarceration alternative pilot program in Caddo Parish

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Change the recipient of the report relative to the pilot program from the Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the Senate Committee on Judiciary C.
2. Require the sheriff to ensure the defendant participates in behavioral health checks with a licensed mental health provider if the risk assessment conducted pursuant to proposed law identifies behavioral health factors reasonably related to supervision or compliance risk.
3. Provide for monthly, rather than periodic, behavioral health checks of the defendant.
4. Modify relative to the limitation of liability as it pertains to harm caused by a program participant.
5. Provide an exception to the limitation of liability if the plaintiff, by clear and convincing evidence, proves that certain circumstances have occurred relative to the program's administration and acts of a program participant.
6. Make technical changes.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Add criteria relative to the public bid process and qualifications of electronic monitoring providers that are to be included in the rules and regulations developed, adopted, and implemented by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office for the program.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Proposed law authorizes the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, not later than Jan. 1, 2027, to implement a pilot program using active electronic monitoring of eligible defendants as an alternative mode of incarceration to traditional imprisonment.

Proposed law provides for eligibility conditions that include the criminal offense that the defendant is charged with along with determinations and risk assessments made by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

Proposed law requires the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office to develop, adopt, and implement rules and regulations for the program and provides for criteria to be included in the rules and regulations.

Proposed law requires the sheriff, as a condition of the defendant's participation in the program, to ensure the defendant participates in monthly behavioral health checks with a

licensed mental health provider if the risk assessment conducted pursuant to proposed law identifies behavioral health factors reasonably related to supervision or compliance risk.

Proposed law describes what constitutes "compliance" and provides for termination of participation in the program if the defendant fails to comply.

Proposed law requires that notice be provided to the defendant in writing of the conditions imposed for participation in the program and requires that the defendant agree in writing to the conditions. Further provides that participation in the program does not in any way negate or nullify the bail obligations as set by the court.

Proposed law requires any electronic monitoring provider who is chosen or contracted with to enforce proposed law to comply with the provisions of present law (R.S. 15:571.36 and 571.37).

Proposed law prohibits a defendant from being admitted to the program prior to collaboration and coordination between the court, the sheriff, and the district attorney for approval of the defendant's participation in the program and permits the court, at any time on its own motion, to prohibit or terminate the initial or continued participation of a defendant in the program.

Proposed law entitles the sheriff to the collection of a sum of not less than the per diem fee authorized by present law (R.S. 13:5535(1)) to be applied to the funding of the program upon negotiation and agreement with the parish governing authority.

Proposed law further permits the sheriff to establish a fee, subject to agreement with the parish governing authority and the sheriff, and provides that funds obtained pursuant to proposed law are not considered surplus funds.

Proposed law permits the sheriff to apply for funding and grants from any source he deems appropriate for administration of the program and to engage in cooperative endeavor agreements with other government agencies or departments or nonprofit organizations whose missions are compatible with the goals and objectives of the program.

Proposed law permits the sheriff to terminate the participation of any defendant in the program for failure to comply with the conditions of the program and requires the physical return of the defendant to the parish jail or any other facility as the sheriff deems appropriate for the purpose of continuing the pretrial detention of the defendant.

Proposed law provides for a list of expenses, relative to the defendant's participation in the program, that are not the responsibility of the sheriff or the parish governing authority.

Proposed law provides for an evaluation of the program, reporting requirements pertaining to the program, recipients of the report, and a termination date for the program that is contingent on the construction or renovation of certain facilities or structures in Caddo Parish.

Proposed law provides for a limitation of liability as it pertains to harm caused by a program participant unless the plaintiff, by clear and convincing evidence, proves that certain circumstances have occurred relative to the program's administration and acts of a program participant.

Proposed law further provides for a phasing out of participants upon termination of the program.

(Adds R.S. 15:571.35.2)