

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHANCE HENRY AND KNOX

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Work Release Programs to study the current administration, efficacy, and statutory framework of work release programs administered by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and to provide for a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the transition from incarceration to the community is a critical phase in reducing recidivism and ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides the legal framework for the rehabilitation of offenders, including specific provisions for work release programs; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 15:711 authorizes the establishment of work release programs for certain inmates in parish prisons or jails, while R.S. 15:1111 governs the work release program for inmates in state correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, multiple legislative instruments have been proposed during the 2026 Regular Session to repeal defunct or underutilized programs within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, indicating a legislative intent to modernize and streamline the state's work release programming; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based research suggests that well-administered work release programs are beneficial to the offender by providing professional skills, fostering personal accountability, and allowing for the accumulation of savings prior to release; and

WHEREAS, such programs benefit society as a whole by increasing the likelihood of successful reentry, reducing the long-term costs associated with recidivism, and addressing labor needs within Louisiana's economy; and

WHEREAS, it is a matter of significant public interest to ensure that these programs are operating with maximum efficiency, transparency, and safety for both the participants and the public; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the existing programs is necessary to determine if current statutes reflect the best practices for modern correctional administration and to identify any further legislative changes that may be needed in the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Work Release Programs to study the current administration, efficacy, and statutory framework of work release programs administered by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and to provide for a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice or her designee.

(2) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker.

(3) One member of the governor's office, appointed by the governor.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.

(5) The secretary of Louisiana Works or her designee.

(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee.

(7) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee.

(8) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association or her designee.

(9) The director of the Drug and Specialty Court Office within the Louisiana Supreme Court or his designee.

(10) The state director of Right on Crime or his designee.

(11) The executive director of the Louisiana Parole Project or his designee.

(12) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry or his designee.

(13) A representative from the Center for Employment Opportunities New Orleans.

(14) A representative from the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman and vice chairman of the task force shall be elected by a majority of the task force members at its first meeting, which shall be called no later than September 1, 2026, and the members may select other officers as the task force deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at such times and places as determined by its chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force may take place at the Louisiana State Capitol, the headquarters of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or any other location the chairman deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives or applicable Joint Rules apply to all meetings of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force are subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force are subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate following the conclusion of its business or February 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide staff support for the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each of the task force members provided in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES