

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 94

BY REPRESENTATIVES JIMMY HARRIS, AMEDEE, BAGNERIS, CHAD BROWN, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, COUSSAN, EDMONDS, GAINES, GLOVER, HAZEL, HODGES, JACKSON, LEGER, LEOPOLD, MAGEE, MARINO, JAY MORRIS, SHADOIN, AND ZERINGUE

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

COURTS/DISTRICT: Authorizes all district courts to establish reentry courts

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:587.4(A) and 5401(A) and (B)(1) and (2) and to repeal R.S.
3 13:5401(C), relative to reentry courts; to authorize the creation of a reentry division
4 in all district courts; to remove the enumerated district courts authorized to create
5 reentry divisions; to require certain criteria for eligibility and suitability; to provide
6 for certain requirements of the court; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:587.4(A) and 5401(A) and (B)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 §587.4. District courts; specialized divisions or sections; subject matter

11 A. Respecting seniority and the requirement that all cases be assigned
12 randomly within multi-judge divisions or sections, the judges of any judicial district
13 court, by rule adopted by a majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, may designate
14 a certain division or section of the court as a specialized division or section having
15 criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, human trafficking court,
16 mental health court, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile, violent crimes or homicides,

1 reentry court, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

2 * * *

3 CHAPTER 34. REENTRY COURTS

4 §5401. District courts; reentry courts; subject matter

5 A. ~~The Each district courts court as enumerated in Subsection C of this~~
6 ~~Section~~, by rule, adopted by a majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, may assign
7 a certain division of the court as a reentry division of court. Prior to the creation of
8 a reentry division of court, each district court shall secure funding to establish and
9 maintain a reentry division of court. The reentry division of court shall establish a
10 workforce development sentencing program, which shall establish guidelines for the
11 issuance of sentences providing inmate rehabilitation and workforce development.
12 The reentry division of court and sentencing program shall work in conjunction with
13 the Louisiana Workforce Commission and all efforts shall be coordinated and
14 consistent with the provisions of R.S. 23:1 et seq.

15 B. Participation in the workforce development sentencing program as
16 authorized by the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the following
17 provisions:

18 (1) The court may recommend that a defendant participate in the workforce
19 development sentencing program if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

20 (a) The defendant meets the eligibility requirements for participation in the
21 Offender Rehabilitation and Workforce Development Program as provided for in
22 R.S. 15:1199.7(A) and (C).

23 (b) The defendant meets the suitability requirements as defined by best
24 practices developed for the Offender Rehabilitation and Workforce Development
25 Program as adopted by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

26 (c) The court determines that it is in the best interest of the community and
27 in the interest of justice that the defendant be sentenced to the Offender
28 Rehabilitation and Workforce Development Program.

Proposed law removes the enumerated district courts that are authorized to establish a reentry division and authorizes the creation of a reentry division in all district courts.

Proposed law requires that each district court secure funding before establishing a reentry division. Proposed law further requires that each district court contact the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to ensure that there is adequate capacity for enrollment or if available bed space exists prior to sentencing.

Present law provides that the court may recommend that a defendant participate in the workforce development sentencing program if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- (1) The defendant meets the eligibility requirements for participation in the Offender Rehabilitation and Workforce Development Program.
- (2) The court determines that it is in the best interest of the community and in the interest of justice that the defendant be sentenced to the Offender Rehabilitation and Workforce Development Program.
- (3) The defendant is not sentenced to a term of incarceration which exceeds 10 years.
- (4) The defendant shall not have any prior felony convictions for any offenses defined as a sex offense.
- (5) The crime before the court shall not be a crime of violence including domestic violence.
- (6) The defendant cannot be sentenced as a multiple offender in the present charge.
- (7) Other criminal proceedings alleging commission of a crime of violence shall not be pending against the defendant.
- (8) The crime before the court shall not be a charge of any crime that resulted in the death of a person.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires that defendants meet suitability requirements as defined by the Offender Rehabilitation and Workforce Development Program.

(Amends R.S. 13:587.4(A) and 5401(A) and (B)(1) and (2); Repeals R.S. 13:5401(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Requires each district court to contact the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to determine if there is adequate capacity for enrollment prior to sentencing.