

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections also worked to secure
2 hygiene and protection supplies, such as soap, masks, and gloves; and

3 WHEREAS, each state prison identified areas to quarantine the incarcerated
4 population of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; and

5 WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
6 reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19 within its prisons; and according to the
7 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, there were thirty-nine COVID-19 positive
8 inmates and thirty-six COVID-19 positive staff members as of April 9, 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to
10 study the release of certain nonviolent offenders from its custody during a declared state of
11 emergency and public health emergency in order to reduce the number of positive cases in
12 the prison population; and

13 WHEREAS, it is important for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to
14 strive to maintain the safety, security, and well-being of its inmate population and staff and
15 to take necessary precautions to mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the impact of
18 COVID-19 on its operations, specifically as it pertains to the safety and security of inmates
19 and staff at its facilities, as well as the feasibility of releasing nonviolent offenders and its
20 impact on mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and to report the number of inmates and staff
21 that have died as a result of COVID-19.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
23 shall report its findings to the legislature no later than January 1, 2021.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
25 to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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)]

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Jones

Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the impact of COVID-19 on its operations, specifically as it pertains to the safety and security of inmates and staff at its facilities, as well as the feasibility of releasing nonviolent offenders and its impact on mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and to report the number of inmates and staff that have died as a result of COVID-19.