

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

PUBLIC HEALTH: Requests a study of the current system of reporting deaths in correctional institutions

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana
 3 State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Department
 4 of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana
 5 Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of
 6 the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the Louisiana Stop
 7 Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated
 8 Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on the current system of reporting deaths of
 9 individuals committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and
 10 Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the feasibility of periodic analysis
 11 of mortality in correctional facilities in Louisiana as a means of reducing carceral
 12 mortality, and to provide recommendations through a report of its findings to the
 13 Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2024.

14 WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving federal grant assistance for law enforcement,
 15 the state is required to quarterly report deaths in parish prisons, state prisons, and private
 16 correctional institutions; and

17 WHEREAS, incarcerated persons are more likely to have chronic health conditions,
 18 such as diabetes, high blood pressure, the human immunodeficiency virus, mental health
 19 conditions, as well as substance abuse problems; and

20 WHEREAS, national data indicates that deaths in state and federal prisons increased
 21 by more than fifty percent during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, data also indicates that the increase in deaths in prisons exceeded the
2 increase in deaths in other congregant living facilities, such as nursing homes; and

3 WHEREAS, every year incarcerated persons die due to other causes, which include
4 accidents, suicide, and violence; and

5 WHEREAS, the use of solitary confinement is correlated with increased rates of
6 suicide; and

7 WHEREAS, additional data is needed to understand the impacts associated with
8 solitary confinement in Louisiana prisons and jails; and

9 WHEREAS, other states, such as Kansas and Texas, have developed systems that
10 may provide valuable insight to consider for the reporting of mortality in correctional
11 facilities in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, mortality statistics are an important health tool for understanding and
13 addressing community health.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana
16 State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the Department of Public
17 Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Commission on
18 Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola
19 University New Orleans College of Law, the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice
20 Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on
21 the current system of reporting deaths of individuals committed to the custody of the
22 Department of Public Safety and Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the
23 feasibility of periodic analysis of mortality in correctional facilities in Louisiana as a means
24 of reducing carceral mortality.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health of the Louisiana
26 Department of Health, the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Public
27 Health Institute, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs'
28 Association, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of
29 Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law,
30 the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly

1 Incarcerated Transitions Clinic report their findings and any policy recommendations to the
2 Louisiana Legislature no later than February 1, 2024.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 assistant secretary of the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the
5 president of the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the director of the Louisiana Public
6 Health Institute, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the
7 president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the Louisiana
8 Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the executive
9 director of Voice of the Experienced, the dean of Loyola University New Orleans College
10 of Law, the director of the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, the director of the Justice
11 Collaborative, LLC, and the director of the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic.

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

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)]

HCR 65 Original

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Marcelle

Requests the office of public health of the La. Dept. of Health, the La. State Coroner's Association, the La. Public Health Institute, the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, the La. Sheriffs' Association, the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the La. Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic to conduct a study on the current system of reporting deaths of individuals committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and to the custody of a parish jail and the feasibility of periodic analysis of mortality in correctional facilities in La. as a means of reducing carceral mortality.