

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE, BRYANT, EDMONSTON, HORTON, KNOX,
AND LAFLEUR

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECTIONS: Directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to permit incarcerated parents to virtually attend certain ceremonies involving their children

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish a policy not later than
3 thirty days prior to the adjourning of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature to
4 permit incarcerated parents at penal or correctional facilities under its jurisdiction to
5 virtually attend the award ceremonies and graduate commencement exercises of their
6 children.

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana has an estimated ninety-four thousand children with a parent
8 who is incarcerated; and

9 WHEREAS, the parent-child bond is critical to a child's development; and

10 WHEREAS, the severance of the parent-child bond by the incarceration of a parent
11 can have short-term and long-term social and emotional effects on the child; and

12 WHEREAS, these effects include poor education outcomes, juvenile justice
13 involvement, physical and mental health issues, strained social and familial relationships,
14 and criminal justice system involvement; and

15 WHEREAS, additionally, families with an incarcerated parent may experience
16 financial instability, thereby increasing the risk that children of an incarcerated parent may
17 live in poverty or be at risk of homelessness; and

18 WHEREAS, maintaining the parent-child relationship is beneficial to the child's
19 development and provides incentive to the incarcerated parent to successfully reenter
20 society; and

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has demonstrated its commitment to
2 addressing the effects of mass incarceration, including the enactment of Act No. 284 of the
3 2020 Regular Session establishing the Council on the Children of Incarcerated Parents and
4 Caregivers, within the Office of the Governor, hereinafter referred to in this Resolution as
5 "The CIP Council"; and

6 WHEREAS, the CIP Council consists of stakeholders in the justice system, including
7 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, caregivers, children impacted by parental
8 incarceration, and organizations such as Daughters Beyond Incarceration; and

9 WHEREAS, the CIP Council is charged with studying the effects of incarceration
10 on children and recommending policy changes as a result of its findings; and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections authorizes penal and
12 correctional facilities in its jurisdiction to establish policies to promote a continuous
13 relationship between a child and the incarcerated parent; and

14 WHEREAS, despite the authority of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
15 to establish policies to promote the parent-child relationship, Daughters Beyond
16 Incarceration and other stakeholders of the CIP Council have expressed the concern of
17 children that their incarcerated parents are unable to attend the award ceremonies and
18 graduation commencement exercises of their children.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
21 to establish a policy not later than thirty days prior to the adjourning of the 2023 Regular
22 Session of the Legislature to permit incarcerated parents at penal or correctional facilities
23 under its jurisdiction to virtually attend the award ceremonies and graduate commencement
24 exercises of their children.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 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)]

HR 7 Engrossed

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Marcelle

Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to establish a policy to permit incarcerated parents at penal or correctional facilities to virtually attend the award ceremonies and graduate commencement exercises of their children.