

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 275

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARINO

CORRECTIONS: Requests the Transportation and Security Administration of the United States to have discussions with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to develop guidelines and procedures for TWIC cards for certain individuals

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) of the United
3 States to have discussions with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
4 (DPS&C) regarding the development of guidelines and procedures for individuals
5 released from DPS&C custody and those on probation or parole for a pre-application
6 process for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards (TWIC cards)
7 while in custody and to work on a process to streamline felony conviction automatic
8 denials.

9 WHEREAS, the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2001 (MTSA) was
10 introduced following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and became P.L. 107-295
11 in 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, the MTSA provided that TWIC cards were to be issued to workers who
13 have access to secure areas of the nation's maritime facilities and vessels; and

14 WHEREAS, TSA and the United States Coast Guard jointly administer the TWIC
15 card program; and

16 WHEREAS, TSA has rules and regulations in place to address an applicant's criminal
17 history on a case-by-case basis through an appeals and waiver process; and

18 WHEREAS, DPS&C releases over thirteen thousand individuals back into the
19 community each year and supervises over forty-four thousand individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, securing a TWIC card as soon as possible after release provides for
2 more opportunities for employment; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Ports Association of Louisiana, five hundred twenty-
4 five thousand jobs in Louisiana are tied to the state's ports; additionally, there are over two
5 hundred sixty thousand jobs related to the oil and gas industry in Louisiana; many of the jobs
6 require a valid TWIC card; and

7 WHEREAS, employment is critical to the success of those on supervision and studies
8 show that unemployment is a major predictor of recidivism; and

9 WHEREAS, it is critical to our national security to protect and secure the nation's
10 maritime facilities and vessels through the TWIC card process; and

11 WHEREAS, it is also critical that opportunities are available to those who have
12 demonstrated rehabilitation and are seeking a second chance; and

13 WHEREAS, according to TSA, individuals in the custody of DPS&C are not eligible
14 to apply for a TWIC card until after they have been released from custody; and

15 WHEREAS, TSA issues TWIC cards within its current regulations to individuals
16 with certain felony convictions; and

17 WHEREAS, the appeal and waiver process takes months for TSA to review
18 conviction details, circumstances, proof of rehabilitation, and whether the person is in the
19 process of rehabilitation before issuing a waiver or ruling on an appeal; and

20 WHEREAS, applying for a TWIC card and beginning the appeal and waiver process
21 prior to a person's release from DPS&C will increase chances of employment shortly after
22 release.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Transportation and Security
25 Administration of the United States to have discussions with the Department of Public
26 Safety and Corrections regarding the development of guidelines and procedures for
27 individuals released from the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
28 and those on probation or parole for a pre-application process for Transportation Worker
29 Identification Credential cards while in custody and to work on a process to streamline
30 felony conviction automatic denials.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 secretary of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States, the administrator
3 of the Transportation and Security Administration, presiding officers of the Senate and
4 House of Representatives of the United States, and to each member of the Louisiana
5 Congressional Delegation.

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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Marino

Requests the TSA of the U.S. to have discussions with the DPS&C regarding the development of guidelines and procedures for individuals released from DPS&C custody and those on probation or parole for a pre-application process for TWIC cards while in custody and to work on a process to streamline felony conviction automatic denials.