

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 275

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARINO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) of the United States to have discussions with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (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 Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards (TWIC cards) while in custody and to work on a process to streamline felony conviction automatic denials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES