

1 WHEREAS, only three behavioral health courts have been launched, in the parishes
2 of Calcasieu, Rapides, and St. Tammany; and

3 WHEREAS, homeless individuals may also be more likely to have mental health
4 conditions which may increase their risk of involvement in the criminal justice system; and

5 WHEREAS, people with severe mental illness may be less able to cope with the
6 stresses of homelessness or may perpetrate criminal acts that are manifestations of their
7 illness; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2008, the rate of homelessness among jail inmates who had been
9 homeless in the previous year and homeless at the time of incarceration was approximately
10 7.5 to 11.3 times the annual rate of homelessness in the general population; and

11 WHEREAS, it is important to understand the needs of Louisiana residents who are
12 incarcerated and suffer from mental illness in order to understand the impact of untreated
13 mental illnesses and the criminal justice system and to reduce recidivism.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to
16 study the connection between mental health issues, homelessness, and the criminal justice
17 system.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana
19 Department of Health shall study the effectiveness, impact, and operational costs of the
20 behavioral health courts in Calcasieu Parish, Rapides Parish, and St. Tammany Parish and
21 report its findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2025
22 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana
26 Department of Health shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report
27 produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
28 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 11 Original

2024 Regular Session

Moore

Requests the office of behavioral health of the La. Dept. of Health to study and make recommendations regarding behavioral health courts.