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	DIGEST	
SB 196 Engrossed	2025 Regular Session	Owen

Proposed law creates the Homelessness Court Program Act.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings, including the critical need for criminal justice system programs to assist individuals who are experiencing homelessness in order to reduce the incidence of substance abuse disorders, untreated mental health issues, destruction and disruption of use of public property, public health and safety issues, and crimes committed by those experiencing homelessness.

Proposed law defines terms, including "participant" as a person currently experiencing homelessness who is subject to the jurisdiction of the homelessness court program. Participant may also be referred to as a person, defendant, probationer, or offender as context requires.

Proposed law provides that each district court by rule may designate as a homelessness court program (program) in or more divisions of the district court to which participants are assigned and may establish a probation program to be administered by the presiding judge or judges thereof or by an employee designated by the court.

Proposed law provides for program goals and criteria, qualifications, and guidelines for participation.

Proposed law provides that upon the successful completion of the terms and conditions of the program, the court shall discharge the participant and dismiss the proceedings against him.

Proposed law provides that each program shall develop a method of evaluation to measure its effectiveness. Provides for annual submission of evaluations to the supreme court.

Proposed law creates the crime of unauthorized camping and provides for penalties.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 13:5381-5386 and R.S. 14:107.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Changes definition of a "participant" to mean a person currently experiencing homelessness who is subject to the jurisdiction of the homelessness court program. Participant may also be referred to as a person, defendant, probationer, or offender as context requires.
2. Makes technical changes.