

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY SENATOR MORRELL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Creates and provides relative to the Pretrial Service Commission.

A RESOLUTION

To establish and provide for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's pretrial service laws and policies and to make recommendations for policy and legislative changes on or before February 1, 2015, that will assist in providing more effective pretrial decision-making.

WHEREAS, each year twelve million people are booked into jails in the United States; and

WHEREAS, most criminal defendants have a right to be released prior to trial, with exceptions made only for those accused of the most serious and dangerous crimes; and

WHEREAS, many defendants stay in jail because they cannot meet the conditions of release, which often are monetary; and

WHEREAS, courts determine conditions of release based on safety and flight risk, but usually have little information about the risks defendants pose to guide these pretrial decisions; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, legislators in eleven states now provide statewide guidance to judges in pretrial decision-making.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's

1 pretrial service laws and policies and to make recommendations for policy and legislative
2 changes on or before February 1, 2015, that will assist in providing more effective pretrial
3 decision-making.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pretrial Service Commission shall consist
5 of the following members:

- 6 (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, or his designee.
- 7 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, or his designee.
- 8 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, or his designee.
- 9 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal
10 Justice, or his designee.
- 11 (5) The chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, or her designee.
- 12 (6) One representative appointed by the Louisiana District Attorney's
13 Association.
- 14 (7) One member appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall also have the following
16 ex officio, nonvoting members:

- 17 (1) The president of the Pelican Institute for Public Policy, or his designee.
- 18 (2) The executive director of the Micah Project, or his designee.
- 19 (3) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or her
20 designee.
- 21 (4) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Correction
22 Services, or his designee.
- 23 (5) The chairman of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, or his designee.
- 24 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.
- 25 (7) The executive director of Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated
26 Children, or her designee.
- 27 (8) The deputy secretary of the office of juvenile justice, or her designee.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be chaired by the chairman
29 of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and be staffed by the staff of the Senate.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the chairman of the Senate Committee
2 on Judiciary C, the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, the chairman of the
3 House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the chief justice of the Louisiana
4 Supreme Court, the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, and the Louisiana Public
5 Defender Board.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 following departments and organizations: the Pelican Institute for Public Policy; the Micah
8 Project; the Department of Children and Family Services; the Department of Public Safety
9 Services and Corrections, Correction Services; the Louisiana Sentencing Commission; the
10 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; Family and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children;
11 and the office of juvenile justice.

The original instrument was prepared by Cathy Wells. The following digest,
which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared
by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Morrell

SR No. 150

Establishes and provides for the Pretrial Service Commission to review the state's pretrial service laws and policies. Requests the commission to make recommendations for policy and legislative changes on or before Feb. 1, 2015. Provides for chair, membership and staffing.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds ex officio, nonvoting members.
2. Specifies chair and staffing.