

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

CORRECTIONS: Creates a task force to review provisions of law regarding work release programs and funding received from such programs

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to review work release programs at the local and state level, funding
3 received from work release programs, and provisions of Louisiana law regarding
4 work release programs and the disbursement of an offender's wages from
5 participating in a work release program, and to provide a report to the legislature
6 with recommendations on the most effective uses of funds received from work
7 release programs to benefit Louisiana's criminal justice system.

8 WHEREAS, a National Institute of Corrections crime report showed that in 2011,
9 the crime rate in Louisiana was five percent lower than the national average rate and the
10 violent crime rate was twenty-seven percent lower than other states; and

11 WHEREAS, despite these statistics, the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics
12 reports that Louisiana has the highest rate of incarceration, imprisoning more of its residents
13 than any other state in the nation (816 per 100,000 state residents based on 2014 data); and

14 WHEREAS, there are many factors that contribute to Louisiana's high rate of
15 incarceration including mandatory minimum and habitual offender sentences, high rates of
16 recidivism caused by the imposition of long-term sentences and lack of reentry resources for
17 short-term prisoners, lack of funding for specialized services forcing the adoption of policies
18 and practices that foster a school-to-prison pipeline, and a lack of adequate funding for
19 providing public defender services threatening the closure of many public defender offices
20 across the state; and

1 WHEREAS, successful offender reentry and reintegration into the community is a
2 matter of critical importance to public safety and can help to address these issues; and

3 WHEREAS, work release programs benefit the offender and society by providing
4 the offender with necessary skills and tools to reenter society successfully and by providing
5 the employer with employees who are reliable and dependable workers; and

6 WHEREAS, work release programs are some of the most innovative and successful
7 programs developed to provide for successful reentry into society and is also a cost-savings
8 measure which results in savings to state and local criminal justice systems; and

9 WHEREAS, work release programs already show great success in rehabilitating
10 offenders and offering them a successful opportunity to reenter into their communities; and

11 WHEREAS, it would be of great benefit to the Louisiana criminal justice system and
12 the entire state to work on expanding the success of the work release programs by looking
13 at ways to most effectively spend funds received from work release programs.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to review work release programs at
16 the local and state level, funding received from work release programs, and provisions of
17 Louisiana law regarding work release programs and the disbursement of an offender's wages
18 from participating in a work release program, and to provide a report to the legislature with
19 recommendations on the most effective uses of funds received from work release programs
20 to benefit Louisiana's criminal justice system.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consider the use of work
22 release funds and shall prioritize the disbursement of such funds for purposes directly related
23 to the criminal justice system including but not limited to the following:

24 (1) Funding of indigent defender services.

25 (2) Restitution to the victim.

26 (3) Payment of court costs and fines.

27 (4) Contributions to the Crime Victims Reparations Board.

28 (5) Expenses and costs associated with the offender's participation in the work
29 release program including but not limited to room, board, and other administrative and
30 incidental costs.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall include
2 the following:

3 (1) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed by the speaker
4 of the House of Representatives.

5 (2) A member of the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

6 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association or his designee.

7 (4) The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee.

8 (5) The state public defender or his designee.

9 (6) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
10 designee.

11 (7) A district court judge designated by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

12 (8) A member of the Crime Victims Reparations Board, appointed by the executive
13 director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal
14 Justice.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all appointments to the task force shall be made
16 within thirty days after adjournment of this legislature in the 2016 Regular Session.
17 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The members of
18 the task force shall serve without compensation.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member of the Louisiana House of
20 Representatives appointed by the speaker shall serve as chair and shall call an initial meeting
21 of the task force no later than October 1, 2016, and hold meetings at the times and in the
22 places he may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill the charge of the task force.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at the call of the
24 chairperson or upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the task force. All members must
25 be notified in writing of all meetings at least five days before the date on which a meeting
26 of the task force is scheduled.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet no less than two times.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit a final
29 report that contains a detailed statement of the findings and recommendations of the task
30 force to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the

1 chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the
2 chairmen of the Senate Committees on Judiciary B and C not later than thirty days prior to
3 the beginning of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be abolished upon
5 submission of the report.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 appointing entities named in this Resolution.

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)]

HR 150 Original

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Hunter

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