



1           WHEREAS, all of the specialty courts are designed to address the underlying clinical  
2           and social needs of individuals entering the criminal justice system for nonviolent offenses  
3           by overseeing treatment and training mandates that allows the individual to comply with  
4           certain requirements as a condition of incarceration avoidance, sentence suspension, or  
5           supervised probation; and

6           WHEREAS, the implementation of specialty courts is a cost-effective alternative to  
7           incarceration and improves the lives of the participants and their families by providing a  
8           foundation for long-term personal and professional stability and success in the community;  
9           and

10          WHEREAS, the district court judges who preside over these specialty courts do so  
11          in addition to their regular dockets, without any extra compensation, because they have a  
12          passion for helping people and are often the sole source of support and encouragement for  
13          the participants, motivating and inspiring them to follow the requirements needed to achieve  
14          graduation; and

15          WHEREAS, because the drug court program is currently operational in fifty  
16          locations throughout Louisiana and is recognized as one of the best and most progressive in  
17          the country, it is the desire of the legislature to see it expand even further; and

18          WHEREAS, it is also the desire of the legislature to see the mental health court,  
19          veterans court, and reentry court expanded throughout Louisiana.

20          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21          commend the Louisiana Supreme Court on the success of the specialty drug court program  
22          and requests that the Louisiana Supreme Court submit a report to the legislature no later than  
23          February 1, 2017, to include information on plans and proposals to expand the drug court  
24          program and the status of implementation and plans for expansion of the mental health court,  
25          veterans court, and reentry court.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report should also identify opportunities for  
27          funding or abilities to use local revenue to draw down federal matching dollars to help  
28          sustain the specialty court programs along with any recommendations for legislation to be  
29          filed in the 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

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

