

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the use of judicial referral agency residential facilities in work release programs and as an alternative to other incarceration programs

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the potential impact of  
3 permitting judicial referral agency residential facilities to house offenders  
4 participating in, and to operate as, sheriff's work release programs, and to utilize  
5 these facilities as an alternative to other incarceration programs.

6 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is to  
7 enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders, effective  
8 probation and parole supervision, and proven rehabilitative strategies that successfully  
9 reintegrate offenders into society; and

10 WHEREAS, successful offender rehabilitation and reintegration into the community  
11 is essential to reducing recidivism rates and has a direct impact on public safety and crime  
12 prevention; and

13 WHEREAS, the chance of achieving successful outcomes for these offenders grows  
14 exponentially if the offenders are referred to facilities that are adequately structured and  
15 well-suited to provide the offender with proper services and programming from the moment  
16 that they enter into the criminal justice system; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides that individuals who have been arrested for the  
18 commission of a crime may be referred by any judicial agency, including the court and  
19 district attorneys, to a residential facility regulated by the Department of Public Safety and  
20 Corrections; and

1           WHEREAS, these judicial agency referral residential facilities are available to house  
2 offenders participating in a pretrial diversion program and offenders who are under the  
3 supervision of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, division of probation and  
4 parole; and

5           WHEREAS, Louisiana law prohibits the use of judicial agency referral residential  
6 facilities for offenders participating in a sheriff's work release program and prohibits such  
7 facilities from receiving funding from the state; and

8           WHEREAS, although legislation is necessary to authorize the use of these residential  
9 facilities for work release programs, it is beneficial to examine the possibility and determine  
10 the impact of expanding the use of these facilities for purposes beyond what is provided for  
11 in current law.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 authorize and direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the potential  
14 impact of permitting judicial referral agency residential facilities to house offenders  
15 participating in, and to operate as, sheriff's work release programs, and to utilize these  
16 facilities as an alternative to other incarceration programs.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consider various aspects of these  
18 alternative facilities and programs including but not limited to moral reconditioning,  
19 community alliances, and family reunification.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in this regard, the Department of Public Safety  
21 and Corrections may work with and receive input from the governor's office, the state public  
22 defender, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association,  
23 and other criminal justice stakeholders as is necessary to achieve its purposes.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
25 shall prepare and submit a report no later than March 1, 2018, to the speaker of the House  
26 of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the chair of the House Committee on the  
27 Judiciary, the chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the chair  
28 of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
29 C.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
2 to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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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)]

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