

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE