

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 200

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and review legislation relative to the criminal justice system enacted during the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature, to study and review its incorporation into Louisiana law, and to identify and recommend necessary changes to correct any inconsistencies with other provisions of Louisiana law that may exist.

WHEREAS, according to United States Bureau of Justice Statistics, Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, Louisiana has taken steps to implement cost-effective, evidence-based practices and programs to control the growth in the state's prison population; and

WHEREAS, in order to build upon this promising foundation and chart a data-driven course for comprehensive reform, in the 2015 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 which created the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force (Task Force), under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; and

WHEREAS, beginning work in June 2016, the Task Force, comprised of legislators, judges, defense lawyers, prosecutors, law enforcement, faith leaders, and community advocates, was directed to develop recommendations for statutory and budgetary changes affecting sentencing and corrections practices with the goal of reducing the corrections population and associated spending, expanding research-based supervision and sentencing practices, and strategically reinvesting savings to reduce recidivism and improve reentry outcomes; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Task Force's work, a report was issued in March of 2017, and several legislative instruments were introduced in the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature including Senate Bill Nos. 16, 139, 220, and 221 and House Bill Nos. 116, 249, 489, 519, 680, and 681; and

WHEREAS, in addition to legislation directly affecting the criminal justice system including the reinvestment of savings into research-based programs that reduce recidivism and legislation regarding victim notification and services, criminal offenses, probation, parole, diminution of sentence for good behavior, certified treatment and rehabilitation programs, and criminal justice financial obligations; this legislative package impacted other areas of Louisiana law including occupational licenses, public assistance, and child support; and

WHEREAS, given the comprehensive nature of this legislative package and the numerous provisions of law affected, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive review of the legislation and study its incorporation into and impact on other provisions of Louisiana law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and review legislation relative to the criminal justice system enacted during the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature, to study and review its incorporation into Louisiana law, and to identify and recommend necessary changes to correct any inconsistencies with other provisions of Louisiana law that may exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute shall report its findings to the legislature by March 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES