HLS 20RS-681 ENGROSSED

2020 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

CRIMINAL/JUSTICE: Directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Department of Education to study the barriers that impede successful reintegration of offenders back into society

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To authorize and direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana
3	Department of Health, and the Louisiana Department of Education to work
4	collaboratively to identify the solutions and resources necessary to fully address the
5	barriers that impede the successful reintegration of incarcerated persons back into
6	society and to provide a report of its findings to the legislature prior to the convening
7	of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.
8	WHEREAS, with high incarceration and recidivism rates comes a high monetary cost
9	that is borne by the taxpayers in Louisiana; and
10	WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is to
11	enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders, effective
12	probation and parole supervision, and proven rehabilitative strategies that successfully
13	reintegrate offenders into society; and
14	WHEREAS, successful offender rehabilitation and reintegration into the community
15	is essential to reducing recidivism rates which has a direct impact on public safety, crime
16	prevention, and the cost of state and local criminal justice systems; and
17	WHEREAS, to this end, it is imperative that the financial resources of this state be
18	used to support the implementation of the most successful and effective rehabilitative and
19	reentry programs for offenders and that those entities tasked with providing those services

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1 have a complete understanding of the critical links to successful reintegration and the current 2 barriers incarcerated persons face upon their release back into society. 3 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the 4 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the 5 Louisiana Department of Education to work collaboratively to identify the solutions and 6 resources necessary to fully address the barriers that impede the successful reintegration of 7 incarcerated persons back into society and to provide a report of its findings to the legislature 8 prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of this work, the departments are directed 10 to work together to better understand the critical links to successful reintegration of 11 incarcerated persons back into society, including but not limited to transportation, family 12 support, employment, mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing, community apathy, 13 and education. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments are authorized and directed to 15 obtain and share data and information necessary to complete this work and to request 16 necessary data and information from the relevant agencies and departments with oversight 17 of each of the critical links to successful reintegration. 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information and data collected from each 19 agency or department and reported to the legislature shall include but is not limited to the 20 number of persons in any programs administered by the agency or department to service 21 persons who are incarcerated, under supervision, or who are released from incarceration or 22 supervision; the education level of such persons; the age, race, and gender of the persons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include the current recidivism rate and the number of persons who recidivate based upon a technical violation of their probation or parole conditions.

the parish where the person was incarcerated or under supervision; the number and type of

mental health diagnoses faced by persons participating in the programs; the number of

persons with substance abuse disorders or with co-occurring mental illness and substance

abuse disorders; the cost of services per individual; the duration of services; and any follow-

up or aftercare services provided by the agency or department.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies and departments providing 2 information and data pursuant to this Resolution are directed to provide information on the 3 barriers that prevent the agency or department from achieving desired outcomes with respect 4 to successful rehabilitation and decreased recidivism, as well as information and data on the 5 cost or fiscal impact of implementing the necessary services and programs in this regard. 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments may seek input and support from any entities or organizations, including community-based resources, that they deem 7 8 appropriate and necessary for their work including but not limited to the Louisiana District 9 Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Sheriffs' 10 Association, and the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 12 to the secretaries of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Louisiana 13 Department of Health and the state superintendent of education.

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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Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, the La. Dept. of Health, and the La. Dept. of Education to work collaboratively to identify the solutions and resources necessary to fully address the barriers that impede the successful reintegration of incarcerated persons back into society and to provide a report of its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.