

1 Louisiana; and

2 WHEREAS, justice-involved persons have unique employment challenges which are
3 compounded by Louisiana's uncertain economic landscape; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana should not regress and cannot risk an increase in recidivism
5 and crime rates if it wants to retain, grow, and attract business and talent; and

6 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Louisiana grows its workforce and its tax base; and

7 WHEREAS, hiring justice-involved persons reduces recidivism and crime rates.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 urge and request:

10 (1) The Louisiana division of administration, Louisiana Department of Public Safety
11 and Corrections, corrections services, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Louisiana
12 Community and Technical College System, and private businesses in the state of Louisiana
13 recognize the value that justice-involved persons can bring to the workforce and society, and
14 act with intention to empower, train, and employ such individuals.

15 (2) The people of Louisiana recognize that justice-involved persons are doing
16 essential work in response to COVID-19; many justice-involved persons are essential
17 workers responding to COVID-19.

18 (3) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, and the
19 Louisiana Workforce Commission align on Job Skill Training programs provided by the
20 Louisiana Community and Technical College System and Industry Based Certification
21 Programs offered in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services,
22 prisons in order to remove licensing barriers and/or open pathways to licensure for
23 justice-involved persons, both during and after incarceration.

24 (4) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, continues
25 its work on ReAP, a result of LA-PRI, which provides evidence-based guidance to the
26 justice-involved person, corrections services staff, the courts, Parole Board, probation and
27 parole, local jails, and community resource partners.

28 (5) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, continues
29 working with community resource partners and utilizes technology to facilitate contact with
30 prospective employers and incarcerated persons prior to their release.

1 (6) The allocation of state general fund dollars and JRI savings continue and expand
2 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, Reentry Initiatives
3 and Programs in its facilities and incentivizes sheriffs with those local facilities with which
4 it contracts to expand their reentry initiatives and evidence-based transitional employment
5 programs to all state prisoners.

6 (7) The Louisiana Workforce Commission and Department of Public Safety and
7 Corrections, corrections services, creates evidence-based transitional employment
8 opportunities for returning citizens and encourages connections between Louisiana
9 businesses and reentry organizations through increased awareness of the commission's
10 bonding capacity and tax credits for businesses which hire justice-involved persons.

11 (8) The Louisiana Workforce Commission partners with business trade organizations
12 to increase awareness of incentives offered to businesses hiring justice-involved persons.

13 (9) Louisiana employers hire justice-involved persons who are referred by
14 established reentry organizations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 governor of Louisiana, the commissioner of administration, the Louisiana Workforce
17 Commission, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, and the
18 Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SCR 11 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Reese

Requests:

- (1) The division of administration, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services (DOC), La. Workforce Commission, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and private businesses in the state recognize the value that justice-involved persons can bring to the workforce and society, and act with intention to empower, train, and employ such individuals.
- (2) The people of Louisiana recognize that justice-involved persons are doing essential work in response to COVID-19, many justice-involved persons are essential workers responding to COVID-19.
- (3) The DOC and the La. Workforce Commission align on Job Skill Training programs provided by the LCTCS and Industry Based Certification Programs offered in DOC prisons in order to remove licensing barriers and/or open pathways to licensure for justice-involved persons, both during and after incarceration.

- (4) The DOC continues its work on ReAP, a result of LA-PRI, which provides evidence-based guidance to justice-involved persons, corrections services staff, the courts, Parole Board, probation and parole, local jails and community resource partners.
- (5) The DOC continues working with community resource partners and utilizes technology to facilitate contact with prospective employers and incarcerated persons prior to their release.
- (6) The allocation of state general fund dollars and JRI savings continue and expand the DOC's Reentry Initiatives and Programs in its facilities and incentivize sheriffs with those local facilities with which it contracts to expand their reentry initiatives and evidence-based transitional employment programs to all state prisoners.
- (7) The La. Workforce Commission and DOC create evidence-based transitional employment opportunities for returning citizens and encourage connections between Louisiana businesses and reentry organizations through increased awareness of commission's bonding capacity and tax credits for businesses which hire justice-involved persons.
- (8) The La. Workforce Commission partners with business trade organizations to increase awareness of incentives offered to businesses hiring justice-involved persons.
- (9) Louisiana employers hire justice-involved persons who are referred by established reentry organizations.