

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Louisiana
2 prohibit "cruel and unusual punishment", which includes requirements for the provision of
3 adequate safety and health-related services for every incarcerated person; and

4 WHEREAS, there are no statewide transparency or accountability initiatives to
5 assure the public that conditions of confinement meet constitutional standards; and

6 WHEREAS, conditions of confinement can meaningfully impact recidivism and
7 relationships between incarcerated individuals and their families and communities; and

8 WHEREAS, other states have made efforts to improve the conditions in their prisons
9 and jails; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana should strive to enact statewide standards to ensure the
11 conditions in the prisons and jails serve the public interest, meet national and constitutional
12 standards, and are subject to meaningful oversight, transparency, and accountability; and

13 WHEREAS, Voice of the Experienced is a Louisiana membership organization by
14 and for persons who are directly impacted by the criminal justice system, including
15 incarcerated persons and their family members, persons under community supervision, and
16 persons living with the lifetime impacts of criminal convictions; and

17 WHEREAS, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law is a Louisiana
18 university committed to public service and holds the only public database of deaths in
19 Louisiana carceral facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition represents more than
21 one dozen organizations seeking an end to the practice of solitary confinement in Louisiana
22 prisons and jails; and

23 WHEREAS, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of
24 Texas at Austin is one of the preeminent public affairs schools in the United States and has
25 comprehensively studied the issue of conditions in prisons and jails nationwide.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 urge and request Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law,
28 Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public
29 Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin to assess existing non-mandatory standards and

1 provide recommendations on mandatory standards for Louisiana prisons and jails, including
2 methods of accountability and enforcement.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
4 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
5 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin assess
6 standards that are applied to distinct populations, including inmates housed in Department
7 of Public Safety and Corrections facilities, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
8 inmates housed in parish jails, and pretrial detainees held in parish jails.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
10 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
11 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin assess
12 health and safety conditions in Louisiana prisons and jails, and make recommendations to
13 improve health and safety conditions in Louisiana prisons and jails.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
15 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
16 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin specifically
17 review models for oversight, transparency, and accountability adopted in other states and
18 provide recommendations for a statewide oversight, transparency, and accountability model
19 for Louisiana prisons and jails.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
21 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
22 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin may work
23 with and receive information from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system,
24 including representatives of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana
25 Sheriffs' Association, and the Louisiana Department of Health.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
27 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
28 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin may also
29 study relevant case law and best practices to better understand other approaches to
30 state-based standards and oversight.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University
2 New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the
3 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin report their
4 findings to the Louisiana Legislature no later than February 1, 2022.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 executive director of Voice of the Experienced, the dean of the Loyola University New
7 Orleans College of Law, the executive director of Louisiana Stop Solitary Confinement
8 Coalition, and the dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University
9 of Texas at Austin.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
11 report produced pursuant to this Resolution be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative
12 Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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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Requests the Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, La. Stop Solitary Confinement Coalition, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin to study and review models for oversight, transparency, and accountability adopted in other states and provide recommendations through a report of their findings to the Legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2022.