
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2021 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to
Original House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 by Representative Marcelle

1 AMENDMENT NO. 12 On page 1, delete lines 2 through 19 in their entirety and delete pages 2 through 4 in their
3 entirety and insert the following:4 "To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and
5 the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with the technical and research
6 assistance provided by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the
7 University of Texas at Austin, to study and review the Louisiana Basic Jail
8 Guidelines and current methods of evaluation and enforcement of such guidelines
9 and to study and evaluate models for oversight, transparency, and accountability
10 adopted in other states regarding the housing of inmates in local jail facilities; and
11 to provide recommendations for modifications to the Basic Jail Guidelines and or
12 methods of compliance evaluation and enforcement of the Basic Jail Guidelines
13 including appropriate funding levels necessary to carry out such recommendations
14 and to provide a report to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than September 1,
15 2022.16 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana entered into a bipartisan justice
17 reinvestment process, as advanced by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, that
18 resulted in legislation designed to safely reduce Louisiana prison population and
19 reinvest savings back into programs that promote successful transition back to
20 communities; and21 WHEREAS, the Louisiana system which utilizes both state prisons and local
22 jails to house persons committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety
23 and Corrections presents unique and complex challenges regarding housing
24 conditions and provision of programming; and25 WHEREAS, these complex challenges include, but are not limited to,
26 limitation on state funds available for housing per diem rates to ensure local jails are
27 able to provide reentry, educational, vocational programming, appropriate staffing
28 levels; employee retention and facility spacing comparable to that of state prison
29 facilities; and30 WHEREAS, approximately twelve thousand of the persons committed to the
31 custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to serve judicially
32 ordered sentences are housed in local jails across the state; and33 WHEREAS, despite these challenges, Louisiana has made significant strides
34 in the reduction of the prison population and the expansion of available programming
35 and resources in local jails through the creation of regional reentry centers and other
36 local level partnerships; and37 WHEREAS, local jails that house state inmates are required to comply with
38 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Basic Jail Guidelines; and39 WHEREAS, the nature of housing conditions and availability of reentry
40 programming can meaningfully impact recidivism and relationships between
41 incarcerated individuals and their families and communities; and42 WHEREAS, since 2008 the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and
43 Corrections in partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and sheriffs'
44 offices have made significant efforts to improve the housing conditions in certain
45 jails across the state with the creation of eleven regional reentry centers in local jails
46 that provide pre-release, reentry, educational, and rehabilitative programming to state
47 inmates housed in such local jails; and48 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the
49 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association seek to continue to improve housing conditions in
50 local jails through the continued expansion of programming contingent upon the

1 availability of funding and to revise and modify the Basic Jail Guidelines and ensure
2 the uniform enforcement thereof; and

3 WHEREAS, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the
4 University of Texas at Austin is one of the preeminent public affairs schools in the
5 United States and has comprehensively studied housing conditions in prisons and
6 jails nationwide.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does
8 hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the
9 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
10 at the University of Texas at Austin to review and evaluate Department of Public
11 Safety and Corrections Basic Jail Guidelines, including methods of evaluation and
12 enforcement, mandatory and non- mandatory standards of confinement as required
13 by the American Correctional Association as applicable to local jails, and the
14 programming and resource needs in local jails and to recommend modifications to
15 the Basic Jail Guidelines and existing methods of enforcement and compliance, and
16 the expansion of programming resources in local jails, and to identify the appropriate
17 funding levels necessary to carry out such recommendations in order to further
18 improve the housing conditions.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and
20 Corrections, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and the Lyndon B. Johnson School
21 of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin may work with and receive
22 information from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including
23 representatives of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana
24 Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana
25 Supreme Court.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and
27 Corrections and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association in conjunction with the technical
28 assistance of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of
29 Texas at Austin report their findings to the Louisiana Legislature no later than
30 September 1, 2022."