
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 the
5 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with the technical and
6 research assistance provided by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public
7 Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, to study and review the Basic
8 Jail Guidelines and current methods of evaluation and enforcement of such
9 guidelines, to study and evaluate models for oversight, transparency, and
10 accountability adopted in other states regarding the housing of inmates in
11 local jail facilities, to provide recommendations for modifications to the
12 Basic Jail Guidelines and methods of compliance evaluation and enforcement
13 of the Basic Jail Guidelines including appropriate funding levels necessary
14 to carry out such recommendations, and to provide a report to the Legislature
15 of Louisiana no later than September 1, 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 the 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, and vocational programming, appropriate
28 staffing levels, employee retention, and facility spacing comparable to that of state
29 prison 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 Department of Public Safety and Corrections in
43 partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and sheriffs' offices have made
44 significant efforts to improve the housing conditions in certain jails across the state
45 with the creation of eleven regional reentry centers in local jails that provide
46 pre-release, reentry, educational, and rehabilitative programming to state inmates
47 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, to revise and modify the Basic Jail Guidelines, and ensure the
2 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 and the
9 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, in conjunction with the Lyndon B. Johnson School
10 of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, to study and review the
11 Department of Public Safety and Corrections Basic Jail Guidelines, including
12 methods of evaluation and enforcement, mandatory and non-mandatory standards of
13 confinement as required by the American Correctional Association as applicable to
14 local jails, and the programming and resource needs of local jails, to recommend
15 modifications to the Basic Jail Guidelines and existing methods of enforcement and
16 compliance and the expansion of programming resources in local jails, and to
17 identify the appropriate funding levels necessary to carry out such recommendations
18 in order to further improve the housing conditions.

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