

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 323

2022 Regular Session

Nelson

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Creates the Back on Track Louisiana Pilot Program

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical change to the proposed law definition of "inmate".

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law authorizes the sheriff of each parish to establish and administer a Back on Track La. Pilot Program for inmates of any jail or prison under the jurisdiction of the sheriff.

Proposed law defines "inmate" as an individual sentenced to the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections who is in the custody of the sheriff.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to promulgate rules to assign a percentage value to each of the following criteria that an inmate satisfied while being confined in a parish jail:

- (1) Attained a 10th grade reading level.
- (2) Obtained a high school diploma or GED credential.
- (3) Obtained an industry-based certificate.
- (4) Established a bank account with at least two months of living expenses.
- (5) Obtained a valid driver's license.
- (6) Established a verified permanent address prior to release.
- (7) Obtained a release or extinguishment of any prior wage garnishments or debts.
- (8) Secured an employment opportunity prior to release.

Proposed law requires the department to calculate one-half of the average number of days of incarceration of an inmate times the amount the department pays the sheriff each day for the housing of inmates in parish jails as provided by present law (R.S. 15:824(B)(1)(a)).

Proposed law requires the sheriff to report to the department the proposed law criteria accomplished by each inmate.

Proposed law further requires the department to multiply the total percentage value of the proposed law criteria accomplished by each inmate times the value established by proposed law and the department shall pay that amount to the sheriff for each inmate. Further provides that the amount paid for each inmate shall be in addition to the amount paid pursuant to present law (R.S. 15:824(B)(1)(a)).

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to provide inmates housed in parish jails with access to as many support services as possible to increase the likelihood of successful reentry into society and to reduce recidivism.

Provides that proposed law shall be implemented only to the extent that funds are appropriated and to the extent that is consistent with available resources. Provides that

payments to the sheriff may be reduced proportionately relative to available funding and the secretary may limit the number of participating parishes that serve as pilot locations for the proposed law program.

(Adds R.S. 15:745.4)