

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 379 (HB 323)

2022 Regular Session

Nelson

New 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.

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

New 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.

New 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 existing law (R.S. 15:824(B)(1)(a)).

New law requires the sheriff to report to the department the new law criteria accomplished by each inmate.

New law further requires the department to multiply the total percentage value of the new law criteria accomplished by each inmate times the value established by new 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 existing law (R.S. 15:824(B)(1)(a)).

New 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 new 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 new law program.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 15:745.4)