

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVES VILLIO, FONTENOT, GOUDEAU, HORTON, KNOX,
LAFLEUR, AND CHARLES OWEN

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Requests the House Committee on the Administration of
Criminal Justice to study sentencing transparency

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a
3 subcommittee thereof, to study sentencing transparency and sentence calculations
4 and to submit a report with recommendations for legislation to the Louisiana House
5 of Representatives no later than March 1, 2024.

6 WHEREAS, sentences for crimes committed in violation of Louisiana law should
7 be clear and readily ascertainable to both victims, offenders, and the public; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana law affords an individual opportunities to reduce the time he
9 serves in prison, including through calculations of "good time;" and

10 WHEREAS, calculations for these sentence reductions are not located in one
11 centralized location or database, leaving victims and offenders unable to understand the
12 length of the prison sentence; and

13 WHEREAS, the sentence delivered in open court frequently does not reflect the
14 amount of time the offender will actually serve, causing confusion as to how much time the
15 individual should remain in prison; and

16 WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives strives to ensure clarity and
17 transparency in the law and in the criminal justice system; and

18 WHEREAS, further study is needed to improve sentencing transparency and to better
19 protect public safety; and

1 WHEREAS, further public discussion is needed outside of the legislative session to
2 ensure members of the public are able to fully ascertain the term of imprisonment at the time
3 of sentencing without any misconceptions.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on
6 Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to study sentencing
7 transparency and sentence calculations and to submit a report with recommendations for
8 legislation to the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2024.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Administration of
10 Criminal Justice shall receive input and information from the following organizations:

- 11 (1) The Louisiana District Judges Association.
- 12 (2) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- 13 (3) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
- 14 (4) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- 15 (5) The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
- 16 (6) Any other interested stakeholders.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
18 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter
19 Legislative 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)]

HR 194 Engrossed

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Requests the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to study sentencing transparency and sentence calculations and to submit a report with recommendations for legislation to the La. House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2024.