

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study and make recommendations relative to the provision of valid state identification documents to individuals released from state custody and the inclusion of such documents on any digitized credentials established pursuant to R.S. 39:17.2(D).

WHEREAS, R.S. 15:827.1(A) states that, "It is the intent of the legislature to provide persons released from incarceration with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections with certain fundamental resources in the areas of employment, life skills training, and job placement and with access to as many support services as possible in order to appreciably increase the likelihood of successful reentry into free society and to reduce recidivism"; and

WHEREAS, when individuals are released from incarceration, their successful reintegration into civilian life often depends on how quickly they can obtain valid government-issued identification; and

WHEREAS, valid government-issued identification is required to secure some of life's basic necessities including housing, employment, medical care, and temporary government assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 15:827.1, transition specialists with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections work to assemble or obtain replacements of at least two forms of identification, including a birth certificate or a Social Security identification card, to support an individual's release from state correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to state correctional facilities, Louisiana incarcerates a large number of individuals in local jails and prisons where similar services may or may not be available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility of:

(1) Embedding within contracts with local jails and prisons expectations that support accessing valid government-issued identification be provided to individuals in state custody who are transitioning out of incarceration and into civil society; and

(2) Providing individuals transitioning out of incarceration with timely access to government-issued photo identification through any digitized credentials established pursuant to R.S. 39:17.2(D), as a legal equivalent to a valid physical license or form of identification that can be accepted by state and other agencies to receive essential services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections provide a report of its findings and recommendations not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2024 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE