

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 194

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

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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 Louisiana House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request 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 Louisiana House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2024.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES