

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 270

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

JUVENILES: Creates the Task Force on Juvenile Offender Policies

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Juvenile Offender Policies to develop recommendations for
3 appropriate education, rehabilitation, and parole of juvenile offenders.

4 WHEREAS, the adverse effects associated with incarceration include diminished life
5 outcomes, such as less success with educational attainment, personal and family
6 relationships, and gainful employment; and

7 WHEREAS, inmates who participate in correctional education programs experience
8 an approximately thirty-four percent lower chance of recidivism than those who do not; and

9 WHEREAS, employers consistently indicate the lack of soft skills among those
10 candidates interviewed for possible hiring; and

11 WHEREAS, obtainment of employment following release from incarceration is
12 thirteen percent greater for those inmates who participate in correctional education programs
13 than those who do not; and

14 WHEREAS, improved behaviors are obtained within Louisiana's correctional
15 institutions, particularly benefitting those individuals serving in prison oversight roles within
16 the system, when inmates are presented with educational and training opportunities along
17 with a potential for expediting their release; and

18 WHEREAS, the five-year recidivism rate for parole board releases, also known as
19 discretionary parole, was less than twenty-eight percent as compared to more than forty-one
20 percent for all releases as of June 30, 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, this decrease in recidivism indicates that individuals released via
2 discretionary parole have a higher likelihood of successful reintegration into communities
3 of Louisiana than those who leave via full-term or good time release; and

4 WHEREAS, juvenile offenders transferred to the adult prison system are those
5 fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen-year olds convicted and sentenced as adults; and

6 WHEREAS, such convictions and sentences are increasingly prevalent in Louisiana's
7 judicial system as a means for addressing criminal conduct by juveniles; and

8 WHEREAS, a comprehensive examination of studies, expert insights, and best
9 practices implemented in other states could provide guidance for Louisiana's correctional
10 system in reforming the education, rehabilitation, and parole of juvenile offenders to their
11 benefit as well as that of the general public and its safety.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Juvenile
14 Offender Parole Policies to study juvenile incarcerations and applicable parole procedures
15 for the purpose of developing recommendations on strategies that can deliver better
16 outcomes for these individuals and their communities, as well as the Louisiana taxpayers
17 who support the state's correctional system. Such recommendations may include specific
18 proposals for legislation.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as
20 follows:

21 (1) Three representatives from the House Committee on Administration of Criminal
22 Justice, one of whom shall be the committee chairman and two others appointed by him.

23 (2) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or his
24 designee.

25 (3) The director of the office of probation and parole, or his designee.

26 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Committee on
27 Parole, or his designee.

28 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his
29 designee.

30 (6) A district court judge, appointed by the Louisiana District Judges Association.

1 (7) A criminologist from the Louisiana State University, appointed by the dean of
2 the school of Humanities and Social Sciences.

3 (8) A crime victims advocate appointed by the Louisiana Commission on Law
4 Enforcement.

5 (9) The chief executive officer of the Pelican Institute for Public Policy, or his
6 designee.

7 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Parole Project, or his designee.

8 (11) The president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of
9 Business and Industry, or his designee.

10 (12) The executive director of Voice of the Experienced, or his designee.

11 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.

12 (14) The state public defender, or his designee.

13 (15) The executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, or
14 his designee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the name
16 of his designee to the task force to the chairman of the House Committee on Administration
17 of Criminal Justice no later than July 1, 2023.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
19 without compensation except for reimbursement of those expenses for which they may be
20 individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting no
22 later than August 1, 2023, at the call of the chairman of the House Committee on
23 Administration of Criminal Justice, and at such first meeting the members shall elect a
24 chairman and any other officers the task force should deem appropriate.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
26 quorum for the transaction of business and all official actions of the task force shall require
27 the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
29 shall provide staff support as needed by the task force.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
2 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana not later than January 5, 2024.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
5 submission of its report, or on January 5, whichever occurs first.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 task force members and appointing authorities provided for in this Resolution.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Juvenile Offender Policies
9 shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this
10 Resolution to the David R. Poynter 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)]

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Creates the Task Force on Juvenile Offender Policies to develop recommendations for appropriate education, rehabilitation, and parole of juvenile offenders and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of La. not later than Jan. 5, 2024.