

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECTIONS: Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive policies for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive
3 policies for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana has an estimated 94,000 children with a parent who is
5 incarcerated; and

6 WHEREAS, the parent-child bond is critical to a child's development; and

7 WHEREAS, the severance of the parent-child bond by the incarceration of a parent
8 can have short-term and long-term social and emotional effects; and

9 WHEREAS, these effects include poor education outcomes, juvenile-justice
10 involvement, physical and mental health issues, strained social and familial relationships,
11 and criminal justice system involvement; and

12 WHEREAS, additionally, families with an incarcerated parent experience financial
13 instability, thereby increasing the risk that children of an incarcerated parent will sink to
14 poverty or be at risk of homelessness; and

15 WHEREAS, maintaining the parent-child relationship notwithstanding parental
16 incarceration is beneficial to the child's development and incentivizes the incarcerated parent
17 to successfully reenter into society; and

18 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has demonstrated its commitment to
19 addressing the effects of mass incarceration, including the enactment of Act No. 284 of the
20 2020 Regular Session establishing the Council on the Children of Incarcerated Parents and

1 Caregivers, within the office of the governor, hereinafter referred to as "The CIP Council";
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The CIP Council consists of stakeholders in the justice system,
4 including the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and caregivers and children
5 impacted by parental incarceration including Daughters Beyond Incarceration; and

6 WHEREAS, The CIP Council is charged with studying the effects of incarceration
7 on children and recommending policy changes as a result of its findings; and

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections authorizes penal and
9 correctional facilities in its jurisdiction to establish policies to promote a continuous
10 relationship between a child and their incarcerated parent; and

11 WHEREAS, notwithstanding this authority, Daughters Beyond Incarceration has
12 expressed concerns that Louisiana's correctional facilities lack family-sensitive policies,
13 rendering it difficult and oftentimes impossible for children to visit their incarcerated parent.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive policies
16 for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such policies shall include all of the following:

18 (1) Permitting incarcerated parents to wear regular clothing during visitation with
19 their children.

20 (2) Providing adequate notice to prospective visitors in advance of a visitation of all
21 of the requirements that need to be met to facilitate visitation.

22 (3) Ensuring that visitation rooms at correctional facilities are accommodating for
23 all children's learning styles and physical abilities.

24 (4) Providing clean restrooms and access to sanitary napkins inside visitation
25 restrooms.

26 (5) Ensuring that the intra-state location of children is considered in determining the
27 location that the parent will be incarcerated.

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

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)]

HCR 22 Original

2024 Regular Session

Marcelle

Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive policies for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.