HLS 24RS-311 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

COURTS: Requests a study to make recommendations regarding behavioral health courts

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to
3	study the connection between mental health issues, homelessness, and the criminal
4	justice system and the effectiveness of behavioral health courts as an alternative to
5	the traditional judicial system.
6	WHEREAS, studies have shown that people who suffer from mental illnesses are
7	more likely to enter into the criminal justice system when they do not have access to quality
8	behavioral health services in their communities; and
9	WHEREAS, national studies indicate that the rates of mental illness are consistently
0	higher in the criminal justice system; and
1	WHEREAS, approximately half of the United States jail population and over one-
12	third of the United States prison population were diagnosed with a mental illness in 2020;
13	and
4	WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2019, five hundred twenty-one thousand people in
15	Louisiana received mental health services the previous year; and
16	WHEREAS, over one-third of Louisiana's total incarcerated adult individuals were
17	identified as receiving some level of mental health care in 2019; and
18	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature enacted the "Mental Health Court Treatment
9	Act" in 2013 which established mental health court treatment programs; and
20	WHEREAS, the program allows people with mental illnesses to serve their sentence
21	on probation if they comply with certain requirements; and

1	WHEREAS, only three behavioral health courts have been launched, in the parishes
2	of Calcasieu, Rapides, and St. Tammany; and
3	WHEREAS, homeless individuals may also be more likely to have mental health
4	conditions which may increase their risk of involvement in the criminal justice system; and
5	WHEREAS, people with severe mental illness may be less able to cope with the
6	stresses of homelessness or may perpetrate criminal acts that are manifestations of their
7	illness; and
8	WHEREAS, in 2008, the rate of homelessness among jail inmates who had been
9	homeless in the previous year and homeless at the time of incarceration was approximately
10	7.5 to 11.3 times the annual rate of homelessness in the general population; and
11	WHEREAS, it is important to understand the needs of Louisiana residents who are
12	incarcerated and suffer from mental illness in order to understand the impact of untreated
13	mental illnesses and the criminal justice system and to reduce recidivism.
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15	urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to study
16	the connection between mental health issues, homelessness, and the criminal justice system.
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and
18	Specialty Court program will survey or invite academic institutions of higher learning or
19	policy institutes to present ideas on how they can assist with the study of the effectiveness,
20	impact, and operational costs of the behavioral health courts in Calcasieu Parish, Rapides
21	Parish, and St. Tammany Parish and report its findings and recommendations to the
22	legislature thirty days prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature
23	of Louisiana.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any university partner in this state that wishes
25	to contribute to this effort that is not solely focused on mental health, but also criminal
26	justice, sociology, and political science, shall be ideally considered for participation in this
27	study.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and
29	Corrections and the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide information, as necessary,
30	to produce the report requested in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 judicial administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and
- 4 Specialty Court program shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report
- 5 produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
- 6 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)]

HCR 11 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Moore

Requests the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to study and make recommendations regarding behavioral health courts.

Requests the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program to submit its findings in the form of a report 30 days prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare</u> to the original bill:

- 1. Change references from the "office of behavioral health of the La. Dept. of Health" to "the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program".
- 2. Provide that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court program will survey or invite academic institutions of higher learning or policy institutes to present ideas on how they can assist with the study.
- 3. Further provide that any university partner wishing to contribute to this effort shall be considered for participation.
- 4. Require the La. Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and the La. Dept. of Health to provide information as necessary to produce the requested report.
- 5. Require the submission of a report 30 days prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session.