

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 457

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE AND MANDIE LANDRY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to solitary confinement

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:865(D) and (E), relative to solitary confinement; to provide for access to
3 certain materials during periods of solitary confinement; to provide for a definition;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:865(D) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §865. Solitary confinement abolished

8 * * *

9 D. Any prisoner in a penal or correctional institution who is placed into
10 solitary confinement shall be provided access to all educational training or religious
11 materials he would otherwise have access to in the least restrictive housing available
12 at the institution unless the governing authority of the penal or correctional
13 institution, or his designee, determines any of the following:

14 (1) Access to the educational training or religious materials presents a
15 security risk.

16 (2) Access to the educational training or religious materials is not feasible
17 due to the nature of the program, training, or materials.

18 (3) Circumstances exist pertaining to the reason for the prisoner's placement
19 in solitary confinement that are incongruous with access to the educational training
20 or religious materials.

- 1 E. For the purposes of this Section, "educational training" means any
2 program offered at that penal or correctional institution, including but not limited to
3 career and technical education, special education, high school equivalency
4 preparation, literacy, adult basic education, developmental studies, higher education
5 degree programs, and any other programs that are or will be offered.
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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)]

HB 457 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Provides relative to solitary confinement.

Present law (R.S. 15:865) provides for a prohibition on the use of solitary confinement, except in certain circumstances.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that any prisoner in a penal or correctional institution who is placed into solitary confinement shall be provided access to all educational training or religious materials he would otherwise have access to in the least restrictive housing available at the institution unless the governing authority of the penal or correctional institution, or his designee, determines any of the following:

- (1) Access to the educational training or religious materials presents a security risk.
- (2) Access to the educational training or religious materials is not feasible due to the nature of the program, training, or materials.
- (3) Circumstances exist pertaining to the reason for the prisoner's placement in solitary confinement that are incongruous with access to the educational training or religious materials.

Proposed law defines the term "educational training".

(Adds R.S. 15:865(D) and (E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Clarify that the items that are required to be provided to a prisoner who is in solitary confinement are educational training or religious materials, rather than education materials.
3. Provide exceptions in certain circumstances where the governing authority of the penal or correctional institution, or his designee, does not have to provide a

prisoner who is in solitary confinement access to educational training or religious materials.

4. Remove the requirement that the supervisor with the highest level of authority who is present at the institution has to provide educational materials to the prisoner within 24 hours of placement in solitary confinement, regardless of the actions of the prisoner, including but not limited to the failure to request such materials.
5. Change the term "educational materials" to "educational training" and remove the word "certification" from this term.
6. Remove the definition for the term "solitary confinement".