

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and cost effectiveness of transferring elderly and infirm inmates to nursing home facilities and to report its findings to the Louisiana Legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the nation according to Bureau of Justice Statistics published by the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, many criminal penalties imposed pursuant to the Louisiana Criminal Code do not allow suspension of sentence, probation, parole, or diminution of sentence for good behavior and instead require mandatory jail time; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 1997, offenders convicted of crimes of violence are required to serve eighty-five percent of their sentences before being eligible for parole; and

WHEREAS, as the length of criminal sentences increases, the resulting inmate population increases and places increased burdens on the existing correctional facilities and operations; and

WHEREAS, these factors have resulted in an increasing elderly inmate population with ever-increasing costs to the state associated with the incarceration of those individuals; and

WHEREAS, providing medical care to elderly and infirm inmates results in tremendous costs to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, elderly and infirm inmates may present minimal risks or no risk to the health and safety of the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, some elderly and infirm inmates may be eligible for Medicaid benefits to cover the costs of their medical care; and

WHEREAS, transferring elderly and infirm inmates to nursing home facilities may be more feasible and cost effective than incarceration for certain individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana authorizes and requests the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and cost effectiveness of transferring elderly and infirm inmates to nursing home facilities and to report its findings to the Louisiana Legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections conduct the study with the assistance of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana State Police, the office of the attorney general, the Louisiana Commission of Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, and any other agencies or associations deemed appropriate by the department.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE