

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

CORRECTIONS: Creates the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force to develop certain sentencing and corrections policy recommendations

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the creation of the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force, under  
3 the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission and the Department of  
4 Public Safety and Corrections, to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of  
5 the task force, and to require the task force to report its findings.

6 WHEREAS, according to United States Bureau of Justice Statistics, Louisiana has  
7 the highest incarceration rate in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, in recent years, many of Louisiana's neighbors, including Texas, South  
9 Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia have advanced comprehensive sentencing and  
10 corrections reforms that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control  
11 corrections costs; and

12 WHEREAS, over the last several years, Louisiana has taken steps to implement  
13 cost-effective, evidence-based practices and programs that have worked to control the  
14 growth in the state's prison population; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana should build upon this promising foundation and chart a  
16 data-driven course for comprehensive reform; and

17 WHEREAS, input from all criminal justice stakeholders is essential in the  
18 development and implementation of cost effective changes to incarceration in the state; and

19 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to develop a high-level task force  
20 to conduct an examination of the state's sentencing and corrections systems and develop  
21 data-driven, research-based policy recommendations that reduce correctional populations  
22 and associated spending, hold offenders accountable, and reinvest savings into strategies  
23 shown to reduce recidivism and increase public safety; and

1           WHEREAS, the Sentencing Commission is limited to providing recommendations  
2 relating to sentencing and post-conviction relief and is therefore unable to complete a  
3 comprehensive assessment of and subsequent policy development for Louisiana's criminal  
4 justice system, which shall include such policy areas as corrections administration, offender  
5 supervision, and alternatives to incarceration, as well as the state's sentencing structure.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 authorize and direct the creation of the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is hereby authorized and directed  
9 to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's adult  
10 criminal justice system and, using a data-driven approach, develop sentencing and  
11 corrections policy recommendations for legislative consideration that will accomplish the  
12 following three goals:

13           (1) Reduce correctional populations and associated correctional spending by  
14 focusing prison space on serious and violent criminals.

15           (2) Hold offenders accountable more efficiently by implementing or expanding  
16 research-based supervision and sentencing practices.

17           (3) Reinvest savings into strategies shown to decrease recidivism, including  
18 improved reentry outcomes.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force  
20 is hereby created. The membership of the task force shall be as follows:

21           (1) The governor, or his designee.

22           (2) The chief justice, or his designee.

23           (3) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

24           (4) The speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

25           (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice.

26           (6) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

27           (7) The president pro tempore of the Senate, or his designee.

28           (8) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C.

29           (9) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

30           (10) The president of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, or his designee.

1 (11) The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his designee.

2 (12) A district court judge designated by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme  
3 Court.

4 (13) The state public defender, or his designee.

5 (14) The chairman of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Public Safety  
7 and Corrections shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force  
9 shall constitute a quorum and shall meet at the call of the chairperson, or upon an affirmative  
10 vote of a majority of the task force. All members must be notified in writing of all meetings  
11 at least five days before the date on which a meeting of the task force is scheduled.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Sentencing Commission and the  
13 Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide the administrative assistance and  
14 staffing as may be necessary in order to enable the task force to accomplish its goals.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall request technical assistance  
16 from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a joint private-public partnership between the  
17 United States Department of Justice and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall direct the Louisiana  
19 Sentencing Commission, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and the Office  
20 of the Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court to provide relevant data and  
21 staff expertise to the technical assistance providers promptly upon request.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its first meeting no  
23 earlier than March 1, 2016, and no later than July 1, 2016, at the call of the secretary of the  
24 Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet no less than six times.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit a final  
27 report that contains a detailed statement of the findings and policy recommendations of the  
28 task force to the governor, leadership and ranking members of the legislature, and the chief  
29 justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court by March 1, 2017. The report shall be made  
30 available to the public.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be abolished upon  
2 submission of the report.

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

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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)]

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HCR 82 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Leger

Directs the creation of the La. Justice Reinvestment Task Force comprising 14 members to evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's adult criminal justice system and, using a data-driven approach, develop sentencing and corrections policy recommendations for legislative consideration to reduce the prison population, provide better use of resources, and reduce recidivism.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add the chairman of the La. Sentencing Commission as a member of the La. Justice Reinvestment Task Force.
2. Place the La. Justice Reinvestment Task Force under the jurisdiction of the La. Sentencing Commission and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.