2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

MENTAL HEALTH: Requests the Institute for Public Health and Justice and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Institute for Public Health and Justice and the Department of Public
3	Safety and Corrections to study the impact of behavioral health issues, including
4	mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders, and developmental disabilities, in the
5	criminal justice system.
6	WHEREAS, studies have shown that people who suffer from mental illnesses,
7	substance abuse disorders, and developmental disabilities are more likely to enter into the
8	criminal justice system when they are not given timely access to quality behavioral health
9	services in their communities; and
10	WHEREAS, national studies indicate that the rates of mental illness are consistently
11	higher in the criminal justice system; and
12	WHEREAS, pretrial inmates represent the largest and fastest growing segment of the
13	United States jail population, and nearly one in five of these inmates suffers from a mental
14	illness; and
15	WHEREAS, the number of adults served by Louisiana community behavioral health
16	programs was reduced by half between 2012 and 2015; and
17	WHEREAS, between 2012 and 2015, the number of adults served in Louisiana
18	psychiatric hospitals dropped to thirty-six percent; and
19	WHEREAS, thirteen percent of inmates housed in Louisiana state operated prisons
20	are diagnosed with a serious mental illness; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is important to understand the needs of Louisiana residents who suffer 2 from serious mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders, to assess the ability of the 3 state's health system to effectively meet the needs of Louisiana residents, and to better 4 understand the impact of untreated mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders; and

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WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes that an effective criminal justice system should be based on public safety, accountability, and rehabilitation.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 8 urge and request the Institute for Public Health and Justice and the Department of Public 9 Safety and Corrections to study the impact of behavioral health issues in the criminal justice 10 system.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in this regard, the Institute for Public Health and 12 Justice and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may work with and receive 13 information from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system and behavioral health 14 systems, including but not limited to representatives from the Louisiana Department of 15 Health, office of behavioral health, the Mental Health Advocacy Service, the National 16 Alliance on Mental Illness, the Louisiana District Judges Association, the Louisiana District 17 Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Sheriffs' 18 Association, the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Louisiana Licensed 19 Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, the Louisiana Association for Marriage and 20 Family Therapy, the Louisiana Counseling Association, the Department of Education, the 21 Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Louisiana Psychological 22 Association, the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the 23 Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers, the Louisiana Hospital Association, and 24 the Louisiana human service districts or authorities.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Institute for Public Health and Justice and 26 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may also study relevant case law to better 27 understand the impact of behavioral health problems in the criminal justice system.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted 29 to the Institute for Public Health and Justice and the Department of Public Safety and 30 Corrections.

Leger

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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