

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.

1 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 House Committee on Health and Welfare 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.