

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

CORRECTIONS: Requests that DPS&C study the feasibility and cost effectiveness of transferring certain elderly and infirm inmates to nursing home facilities

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)]

Jefferson

HCR No. 111

Requests the Dept. 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 legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 R.S.