

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana Sentencing Commission to study the feasibility of requiring an offender to serve his term of imprisonment through home incarceration with the use of electronic monitoring and to report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, according to a study by the PEW Center on the States, Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS, with this high incarceration rate comes a high monetary cost that is borne by the taxpayers in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, is to enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders, effective probation and parole supervision, and proven rehabilitative strategies that successfully reintegrate offenders into society, as well as assisting individuals and communities victimized by crime; and

WHEREAS, successful offender reentry and reintegration into the community is a matter of critical importance to the public's safety, but reentry is often unsuccessful due to the barriers offenders face including a lack of access to family and community support; and

WHEREAS, the ability of offenders to obtain employment and become productive members of their communities is essential to reducing recidivism rates and home incarceration with the option of electronic monitoring will allow the offender to successfully reenter society by maintaining ties to his family and community and offering him an opportunity to obtain employment; and

WHEREAS, home incarceration and electronic monitoring encourage successful offender reentry, which may serve to reduce crime and the number of crime victims, and ultimately ensure opportunities for safer communities; and

WHEREAS, home incarceration and electronic monitoring may also result in significant savings to state and local criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to research, study, and consider a number of factors before implementing mandatory home incarceration and electronic monitoring in lieu of traditional imprisonment, and those factors include but are not limited to determinations made with regard to the type of offender who may be ordered to serve his sentence through home incarceration, the cost and feasibility of implementing such a system, the impact on the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, sheriffs, local governing authorities, and the taxpayers of this state, and the potential impact of home incarceration on recidivism and an offender's ability to successfully reenter society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Louisiana Legislature does hereby direct the Louisiana Sentencing Commission to study the feasibility of requiring an offender to serve his term of imprisonment through home incarceration with the use of electronic monitoring and to report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE