

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 235

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana, on or before January 1, 2019, information relative to the number of inmates providing services or work performed in connection with certain capital construction projects, the amount of wages or "good time" received by the inmate for such services or work performed, and the amount of savings realized from the use of inmates for necessary labor in connection with capital construction projects at state-owned facilities or buildings.

WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide employment opportunities and vocational training for all inmates, regardless of gender, consistent with available resources, physical custody, and appropriate classification criteria; and

WHEREAS, the law further provides that insofar as is possible, the equipment used in such programs, the conditions of employment, the management practices, and the general operating procedures thereof shall approximate those of private industry; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the law provides that the inmates may be compensated, within the limits in grades fixed by the secretary of the department, for work performed, including institutional maintenance and attendance at training programs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law authorizes the governor, upon determining that it is appropriate and in furtherance of the rehabilitation and training of inmates, to authorize, by executive order, the use of inmates of a penal or correctional facility owned by the state of Louisiana for necessary labor in connection with a particular capital construction project on the grounds of the facility, when the estimated cost of the project or work, exclusive of labor

costs, does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for any new construction, or when the project involves renovation, maintenance, repair, or remodeling work on the grounds of the facility; and

WHEREAS, legislation was filed in the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana seeking to authorize the use of inmate labor to perform necessary labor for certain construction projects at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to penal or correctional facilities or at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law authorizes certain offenders to earn, in lieu of incentive wages, a diminution of sentence or "good time" by good behavior and the performance of work or self-improvement activities, or both.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana, on or before January 1, 2019, a cost analysis of and information relative to the use of inmates for necessary labor in connection with capital construction projects on the grounds of a penal or correctional facility, at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to a penal or correctional facility, at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex, or other state-owned buildings or facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

(1) The number of inmates providing services or labor in connection with capital construction projects on the grounds of a penal or correctional facility, at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to a penal or correctional facility, at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex, or other state-owned buildings or facilities.

(2) The amount of wages each inmate receives for the services or work performed in connection with capital construction projects on the grounds of a penal or correctional facility, at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to a penal or correctional facility, at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex, or other state-owned buildings or facilities.

(3) The amount of additional "good time" an inmate elects to receive in lieu of wages for the service or work performed in connection with capital construction projects on the grounds of a penal or correctional facility, at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to a penal or correctional facility, at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex, or other state-owned buildings or facilities.

(4) The amount of savings realized from the use of inmate labor on capital construction projects on the grounds of a penal or correctional facility, at any administrative building or facility which provides management or support services to a penal or correctional facility, at other grounds and facilities within the state capitol complex, or other state-owned buildings or facilities.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES