

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 216

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request state and local criminal justice agencies to review technologies in use to monitor offenders and parolees and to utilize the most up-to-date technology-enabled electronic monitoring.

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system in Louisiana, at both state and local levels, would benefit from a thorough review of the technologies utilized to monitor offenders and parolees, and would further benefit from modernizing these means and methods in order to take advantage of new technologies that would improve performance, efficiency, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, persons who enter the criminal justice system need to be identified on a real time basis during the pre-trial period as criminal cases move from arrest to charges to trial; and

WHEREAS, offenders who are convicted and subsequently released on parole need to be identified on a real time basis during their parole period for purposes of compliance and public safety; and

WHEREAS, traditional means of tracking, including electronic ankle bracelets, are lacking in effectiveness and intrusive to the offender, as demonstrated by various studies and reports, including from the Brookings Institute, PEW Research Center, and the National Institute of Justice; and

WHEREAS, modern technologies are available that are superior in tracking effectiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request all state and local criminal justice agencies to review, research, and implement up-to-date technologies in order to improve their methods and systems of administration, including electronic monitoring of persons awaiting trial, as well as those offenders released on parole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such electronic monitoring systems may include GPS technologies and the use of biometric-based wrist watches, also known as "smart watches", or equivalent wearable devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any related contracts for electronic monitoring systems should give preference to Louisiana vendors wherever possible and cost competitive, subject to state and local procurement laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of adult services and office of juvenile justice, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the state public defender, and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE