



1 who are in the best position to determine the sentence which should be given to a particular  
2 defendant; and

3 WHEREAS, the minimum mandatory sentences often result in offenders being  
4 released from incarceration without having any parole supervision upon completion of their  
5 sentence; and

6 WHEREAS, the legislature needs to revisit the goals of incarceration and focus on  
7 the rehabilitation component of incarceration, which has not been a legislative priority for  
8 the last several years; and

9 WHEREAS, the average cost of incarceration to the state systemwide is an average  
10 of thirty-six dollars per day per inmate; and

11 WHEREAS, after many years of incarceration, inmates are often ill-prepared to  
12 return to society and often return to criminal activities once released from custody; and

13 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) offers  
14 educational programs for inmates, but additional educational programs and skills  
15 development programs may be cost-effective and serve as a greater deterrence to crime and  
16 recidivism if additional educational and skills programs were developed based upon the  
17 abilities of inmates which would prepare them for their transition back into society; and

18 WHEREAS, if the DPS&C were responsible for assessing the educational and skills  
19 needs of offenders in its custody and if the DPS&C required the offenders who have not  
20 graduated from high school or obtained a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and who  
21 possess the educational ability and the intellectual capacity to enroll in the courses and  
22 programs necessary to successfully complete the GED program, inmates would be better  
23 prepared to return to society; and

24 WHEREAS, if the DPS&C provided alternative educational and vocational skills  
25 training necessary for offenders who are unable to complete the GED program because of  
26 mental and physical disorders, or by reason of age, infirmity, or some other learning or  
27 physical disorder, these inmates would be better prepared to return to society; and

28 WHEREAS, equipping inmates with the necessary educational and job skills  
29 necessary to succeed in society will reduce recidivism exponentially; and

1           WHEREAS, the DPS&C has made significant efforts to provide for positive reentry  
2 for many offenders and must continue to develop and improve upon these efforts; and

3           WHEREAS, the development and expansion of such programs could have a positive  
4 impact on the state economy, while at the same time achieve the goals of incarceration.

5           THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests  
6 that the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice study and investigate  
7 the feasibility and effectiveness of expanding the educational and skills training to assist  
8 offenders with the transition back into society to reduce the costs of incarceration and the  
9 rate of recidivism, with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
10 the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the  
11 Louisiana State Police, the office of the attorney general, the Louisiana Commission of Law  
12 Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, and any other agencies or  
13 associations deemed appropriate by the committee and to report its findings to the House of  
14 Representatives prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session.

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#### 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)]

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Burrell

HSR No. 4

Requests that the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice study and investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of expanding the educational and skills training to assist offenders with the transition back into society to reduce the costs of incarceration and the rate of recidivism and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2009 R.S.