

ADVISORY GROUP ON Efficiency and Benchmarking **PROPOSAL#:** AGEB # 5
SUBJECT: Corrections/GED For Probation/Parole **DATE ADOPTED BY ADVISORY GROUP:** 9-8-09
COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

RECOMMENDATION: To provide that a Louisiana state prisoner, except those determined to have certain disabilities, who does not have a high school diploma, or who has not passed the General Education Development test (GED) certifying that he has American high school academic skills, shall not be eligible for probation or parole until he has passed the GED through a program offered by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. To provide funds to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections for this responsibility.

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/Study
To provide that a Louisiana state prisoner, except those determined to have certain disabilities, who does not have a high school diploma, or who has not passed the General Education Development test (GED) certifying that he has American high school academic skills, shall not be eligible for probation or parole until he has passed the GED through a program offered by the Louisiana DPSC. To provide funds to the DPSC for this responsibility.	Legislature	To reduce the recidivism rate in the state prisons thereby reducing the state funds expended on incarceration.	Statutory amendment		

Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and 50% of the state's inmates return to prison within five years. Crime, recidivism and illiteracy correlate. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections spends only \$5 million a year (less than 2% of its budget) on prisoner education. The Louisiana Streamlining Government Commission recommends to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature that Louisiana law be changed to provide that a Louisiana state prisoner who does not have a high school diploma, or who has not passed the General Education Development test (GED) certifying that he has American high school academic skills, shall not be eligible for probation or parole until he has passed the GED through a program offered by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The Commission also recommends that appropriate funding be provided to the department for this responsibility and that the department be directed to promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to implement this program, including provisions exempting those inmates who are determined to have disabilities that prevent them from passing the GED.