



# Legislative News Release



[LCO](#) | [HOUSE](#) | [SENATE](#) | [SCHEDULES](#)

## Sen. Heather Cloud on the Office of Juvenile Justice

**June 22, 2022** – Senator Cloud released the following after two more serious incidents occurred at the Bridge City Facility within OJJ. Last week, twenty juveniles escaped their sleeping quarters and took control of the inside of the facility. The Jefferson Parish SWAT team was dispatched. A day before that, five inmates had escaped the same facility.

"The Office of Juvenile Justice will not improve until we make foundational changes to the system. I have a legislative instrument that does just that. It received bipartisan support in both chambers and awaits the Governor's signature. I look forward to when Governor Edwards signs the bill because it will have lasting changes in OJJ and affect how all the juvenile inmates are cared for. My bill will take us away from facilities where low risk offenders are housed with high risk offenders. Instead, we'll have a facility where all high risk inmates are kept and that is tailored to their needs. This will help improve safety in the facilities and help recruit new staff who are concerned for their safety.

Senate Bill 323 is a bill that moves the Office of Juvenile Justice away from the therapeutic model to a tiered approach. Youth would be first evaluated on their needs and committed crimes then placed in the appropriate facility. Those in the low risk category would be given a more therapeutic approach."

To learn more about SB 323, click [here](#).

###

**Contact: Makenzie Morgan** | (225) 342-8834

| [Connect With Us](#) |

<https://senate.la.gov/>