

# ACT No. 555

HOUSE BILL NO. 1363

BY REPRESENTATIVES WINSTON, MARTINY, BURNS, R. CARTER, DOERGE, DURAND, GLOVER, GRAY, E. GUILLORY, M. GUILLORY, HUNTER, KATZ, LABRUZZO, MARCHAND, MCDONALD, MONTGOMERY, STRAIN, WADDELL, WALKER, SCHNEIDER, THOMPSON, ALEXANDER, ANSARDI, BADON, BALDONE, BAUDOIN, BAYLOR, BEARD, BROOME, BRUCE, CAZAYOUX, CROWE, CURTIS, DARTEZ, DORSEY, FANNIN, GALLOT, GEYMANN, HONEY, HOPKINS, HUTTER, JEFFERSON, JOHNS, KENNEY, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LANCASTER, MORRISH, MURRAY, PIERRE, T. POWELL, RICHMOND, RITCHIE, SCALISE, GARY SMITH, JACK SMITH, JANE SMITH, TRAHAN, AND TUCKER AND SENATORS MOUNT, CRAVINS, JONES, AND LENTINI

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1941.1, 1941.2, 1941.5, and 1941.8 and to repeal R.S.  
3 46:1941.3(1), 1941.4, 1941.6, 1941.7, 1941.9 through 1941.13, relative to youth  
4 services; to provide for the creation of children and youth planning boards; to provide  
5 for the purpose of such boards; to provide with respect to membership; to repeal  
6 provisions of law providing for parish youth services programs; to repeal provisions  
7 providing for parish youth services subsidy program; and to provide for related  
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 46:1941.1, 1941.2, 1941.5, and 1941.8 are hereby amended and  
11 reenacted to read as follows:

12 PART III. PARISH CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS PLANNING  
13 BOARDS

14 §1941.1. Short ~~Title~~ title

15 The provisions of this Part shall be known as the "Parish Children and Youth  
16 Services Planning Boards Act".

17 §1941.2. Purpose; role of Children's Cabinet

18 ~~For the purposes of encouraging positive youth development, diversion of~~  
19 ~~youth from the criminal justice system, reduction in commitments of youth to state~~

1           ~~institutions, promoting efficiency and economy in the delivery of youth services, and~~  
2           ~~providing community response to the growing rate of juvenile delinquency, the~~  
3           ~~legislature authorizes a program of state subsidies to assist parishes, on a voluntary~~  
4           ~~basis, in the development, implementation, and operation of comprehensive,~~  
5           ~~community-based youth service programs. These programs may include, but are not~~  
6           ~~limited to, diversion, alternatives to home displacement, alternatives to incarceration,~~  
7           ~~and coordination of youth services at the parish level.~~

8           A. The purpose of the children and youth planning boards is to assist in the  
9           assessment, alignment, coordination, prioritization, and measurement of all available  
10           services and programs that address the needs of children and youth. This includes  
11           children and youth at risk for, or identified with, social, emotional, or developmental  
12           problems, including, but not limited to educational failure, abuse, neglect, exposure  
13           to violence, juvenile or parental mental illness, juvenile or parental substance abuse,  
14           poverty, developmental disabilities and delinquency. The boards are intended to  
15           encourage collaborative efforts among local stakeholders for assessing the physical,  
16           social, behavioral, and educational needs of children and youth in their respective  
17           communities and for assisting in the development of comprehensive plans to address  
18           such needs. The infrastructure for planning is intended to be data-driven in order to  
19           select appropriate evidence-based programs which will maximize available resources.

20           B. The legislature authorizes the establishment of children and youth  
21           planning boards to assist in the development, implementation, and operation of  
22           services which encourage positive development, diversion of children and youth from  
23           the criminal justice and the foster care system, reduction in the commitments of  
24           youth to state institutions, and providing community response to the growing rate of  
25           juvenile delinquency. The coordination and implementation of services shall include,  
26           but are not limited to prevention, early intervention, diversion, alternatives to home  
27           displacement, alternatives to incarceration, and treatment services. Through such  
28           boards, the state intends to foster and promote a continuum of community-based

1 services and systems reflecting service integration at the state and community or local  
2 levels.

3 C. The role of the Children’s Cabinet shall be to facilitate the creation of  
4 children and youth planning boards by offering guidance and technical assistance to  
5 local communities and governing authorities including, but not limited to resource  
6 identification, needs assessments, monitoring and performance evaluation, strategic  
7 planning and other forms of assistance and support.

8 \* \* \*

9 §1941.5. Participation

10 A. ~~One or more contiguous parishes may qualify for funds as provided by~~  
11 ~~R.S. 46:1941.2 by the enactment of appropriate resolutions that include creating and~~  
12 ~~establishing a youth services advisory board, providing for the preparation of a~~  
13 ~~comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and operation of those~~  
14 ~~youth services, and agreeing to provide the local share of funding~~ There shall be a  
15 children and youth planning board created and established in each judicial district by  
16 enactment of appropriate resolutions by the governing authority of each parish in that  
17 district. The board shall provide for the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the  
18 development, implementation, and operation of services for children and youth.

19 B. ~~When parishes combine as authorized in this Section, they shall comply~~  
20 ~~with the provisions of R.S. 46:1941.9. Nothing herein shall mandate a parish~~  
21 ~~governing authority to fund the operational expenses of the board.~~

22 C. ~~When parishes choose not to participate in the subsidy program, the parish~~  
23 ~~governing authority may authorize a single private, nonprofit organization to~~  
24 ~~participate in compliance with R.S. 46:1941.9. Nothing herein shall prevent a single~~  
25 ~~parish or group of parishes from establishing an advisory board which would report~~  
26 ~~to a youth services planning board.~~

27 \* \* \*

1 §1941.8. ~~Youth Children and youth~~ services advisory board boards; members; duties

2 ~~A. Each youth services advisory board shall consist of at least eighteen but~~  
3 ~~not more than twenty members who, if available and willing to serve, shall be~~  
4 ~~representative of law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, public education,~~  
5 ~~corrections, ethnic minorities, the social services, and the lay citizen. At least three~~  
6 ~~members of the board shall be eighteen years of age or younger.~~

7 ~~B. The parish governing authority shall make the appointments for a period~~  
8 ~~of two years. In the case of regional participation, cooperating parish governing~~  
9 ~~authorities may formulate a plan of representation and may add one representative~~  
10 ~~to the board from each participating parish.~~

11 ~~C. If the parish governing authority authorizes a single private, nonprofit~~  
12 ~~organization to participate in the subsidy program, its advisory board makeup shall~~  
13 ~~follow the guidelines established in this Section.~~

14 ~~D. The Youth Services Advisory Board shall actively participate in the~~  
15 ~~formulation of the comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and~~  
16 ~~operation of the youth services program and shall make formal recommendation to~~  
17 ~~the parish governing authority or joint parish governing authorities at least annually~~  
18 ~~concerning the comprehensive plan and its implementation during the ensuing year.~~

19 ~~E. All proceedings of the Youth Services Advisory Board and any committee~~  
20 ~~or subgroup shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:4.1 through R.S. 42:10, and~~  
21 ~~all votes taken of members shall be recorded and shall become matters of public~~  
22 ~~record.~~

23 ~~F. The board shall promulgate and implement rules concerning attendance~~  
24 ~~of members at board meetings. The members may also elect their own officers.~~

25 A. Each planning board shall consist of a minimum of eleven, but not more  
26 than twenty-five members. Special care should be given in the appointments to  
27 ensure that the board is representative of the community in terms of gender, age,  
28 ethnicity, and geography, as well as knowledge and expertise. Those appointed shall  
29 include the following, if available and willing to serve, but need not be limited to:

1                   (1) Members of the education community that are representative of and  
2                   knowledgeable about early childhood, elementary, secondary, and special education.

3                   (2) Members of the criminal justice community that are representative of and  
4                   knowledgeable about law enforcement, prosecution, public defense, and the  
5                   judiciary. Wherever possible, a member of the judiciary elected to the juvenile court  
6                   bench should be included.

7                   (3) Members of the health care community that are representative of and  
8                   knowledgeable about physical health, mental health, and early childhood substance  
9                   abuse prevention and treatment services.

10                  (4) Members of the social services community that are representative of and  
11                  knowledgeable about child in need of care services, foster parenting, and child and  
12                  family support programs.

13                  (5) Members of the faith-based communities.

14                  (6) Members of the business and labor communities.

15                  (7) Members of parenting and youth organizations.

16                  B. The parish governing authority shall make the appointments for a period  
17                  of two years. In the case of a judicial district which encompasses more than one  
18                  parish, cooperating parish governing authorities may formulate a plan of  
19                  representation and may add representatives to the board from each participating  
20                  parish.

21                  C.(1) The children and youth planning boards shall actively participate in the  
22                  formulation of a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and  
23                  operation of services for children and youth and make formal recommendations to  
24                  the parish governing authority or joint parish governing authorities at least annually  
25                  concerning the comprehensive plan and its implementation during the ensuing year.

26                  (2) In its formulation of the comprehensive plan, the children and youth  
27                  planning boards shall do all of the following, but shall not be limited to the  
28                  following:

1           (a) Identify all resources available to meet the needs of children and youth  
2           by comprehensively examining resources and services that target children and youth.  
3           These services may include, but are not limited to prevention, early intervention,  
4           education, and treatment.

5           (b) Assess the needs of children and youth in the local community,  
6           incorporating reliable data sources.

7           (c) Develop and select the appropriate evidence-based strategies or programs  
8           to meet those needs identified by soliciting community input and developing a  
9           strategic plan to best address the needs of children and youth in the respective  
10           community. This strategic plan should have measurable goals and objectives and  
11           should be evaluated annually to ensure its effectiveness.

12           (d) Collaborate with schools, law enforcement, judicial system, health care  
13           providers, and others to ensure goals and treatment needs are being met.

14           (e) Ensure effective delivery of prevention programs in the community  
15           through training, technical assistance, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure effective  
16           outcomes are achieved.

17           (f) Report annually by October first to the office of youth services and the  
18           Children's Cabinet the results of such assessments. Performance indicators and  
19           benchmarks from the reports will be used for planning at both the state and  
20           community levels.

21           D. All proceedings of the children and youth planning boards and any  
22           committee or subgroup thereof, shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:4.1 and  
23           42:10, and all votes taken of members shall be recorded and shall become matters of  
24           public record.

25           E. The boards shall promulgate and implement rules concerning attendance  
26           of members at board meetings. The members may also elect their own officers.

1           Section 2. R.S. 46:1941.3(1), 1941.4, 1941.6, 1941.7, 1941.9 through 1941.13 are  
2 hereby repealed in their entirety.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_