

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY SENATOR BROOME

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Requests the DPSC, Youth Services, office of juvenile justice to report to the legislature on Louisiana's progress in conforming to and complying with the original goals and purposes for juvenile justice reform outlined in Act 1225 of 2003.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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To urge and request that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, office of juvenile justice report to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2015, on Louisiana's progress in conforming to and complying with the goals of juvenile justice reform outlined in Act No. 1225 of the 2003 Regular Session of the legislature.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana directed in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003 that Louisiana should work toward accomplishing certain reforms in Louisiana's juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, those reforms include periodic review of every juvenile in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to determine whether the juvenile is placed in the least restrictive placement most appropriate to their needs and consistent with the circumstances of the case and the protection of the best interests of the society and the safety of the public within the state; and

WHEREAS, those reforms include the creation of a single state entity for the delivery of services to children and their families to facilitate: more effective coordination and collaboration, a better system of service delivery with a single point of financing, a single point of entry, a comprehensive system of case management and wraparound services

1 for children and families, along with savings from the elimination of redundant  
2 administrative and programmatic functions; and

3 WHEREAS, those reforms include developing and recommending uniform standards  
4 and licensing procedure for local juvenile detention facilities, which standards should  
5 comport with nationally recognized and accepted standards for practice in juvenile facilities;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, those reforms include interagency sharing and integration of data and  
8 information relating to child protection, delinquency, families in need of services and other  
9 concerns provided in the Louisiana Children's Code, for the benefit of the children and  
10 families involved in the juvenile justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003 lists at least thirteen different  
12 state and local agencies which are encouraged to facilitate such interagency agreements  
13 regarding the sharing of juveniles' information; and

14 WHEREAS, reforms sought in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003 further  
15 include greater communication, coordination, and collaboration between and among state,  
16 city, parish, and other local public school systems and juvenile justice agencies to address  
17 effectively issues affecting the behavior and disciplining of students, especially with respect  
18 to safe school planning, mental health service delivery, family strengthening, alternative  
19 schools, special education, school zero tolerance policies, school suspensions, and positive  
20 behavioral supports; and

21 WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003 includes these and other  
22 reforms which the legislature directed should be implemented within Louisiana's juvenile  
23 justice system; and

24 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, office  
25 of juvenile justice, is responsible for the custody of, evaluation of, such rehabilitation  
26 programs as the department deems appropriate for, and post-release monitoring of  
27 adjudicated delinquent youth.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
29 urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, office  
30 of juvenile justice to prepare a written report including findings and recommendations on

1 Louisiana's progress in conforming to and complying with the goals of juvenile justice  
2 reform outlined in Act No. 1225 of the 2003 Regular Session of the legislature, and how best  
3 to proceed moving forward to achieve the Act's remaining goals not yet achieved.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and  
5 Corrections, Youth Services, office of juvenile justice shall report its findings and  
6 recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2015.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.  
8 Mary Livers, Deputy Secretary of Youth Services, office of juvenile justice.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Julie J. Baxter.

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DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 148

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before February 1, 2015, on Louisiana's progress in conforming to and complying with the  
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best to proceed moving forward to achieve the Act's remaining goals not yet achieved.