

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, office of juvenile justice to prepare a written report including findings and recommendations 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, and how best to proceed moving forward to achieve the Act's remaining goals not yet achieved.

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

SCR NO. 148

ENROLLED

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES