

SENATE BILL NO. 54

BY SENATOR BROOME

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 793.1, 793.3 and 793.4, relative to early intervention programs; to authorize the program in East Baton Rouge Parish; to provide certain procedures, terms, conditions and fees; to provide for a method of collecting and depositing fees to fund such early intervention program; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Articles 793.1, 793.3 and 793.4 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 793.1. Early intervention programs; authorization; purpose

The purpose of this Article and Articles 793.2 through 793.4 is to authorize the creation of ~~an~~ early intervention programs, hereinafter referred to as the "program", in the parishes of **East Baton Rouge**, Iberia, St. Mary, and St. Martin. The purpose of the program shall be to address the underlying causes of behavioral problems and school performance problems related to behavior by pooling existing resources targeted at the child and family through appropriate action by service and treatment providers. The legislature finds:

(1) Research indicates that early identification and intervention of aggressive, antisocial, or delinquent behaviors are critical to the prevention of juvenile delinquency in later years.

(2) Research also indicates that school-based preventive tactics for violent

1 or aggressive behaviors are beneficial to the overall academic success of children,
 2 especially when such programs include parental involvement in prevention and
 3 intervention strategies.

4 (3)(a) The district attorney of Iberia, St. Mary, and St. Martin parishes, in
 5 conjunction with the local school boards in such parishes, has demonstrated a
 6 willingness to address behavioral problems or school performance problems related
 7 to behavior by providing physical locations in each parish where personnel can work
 8 together in a coordinated effort.

9 **(b) The district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish, in conjunction**
 10 **with the local school boards in such parish, has demonstrated a willingness to**
 11 **address behavioral problems or school performance problems related to**
 12 **behavior by providing physical locations in the parish where personnel can**
 13 **work together in a coordinated effort.**

14 (4) Early intervention has been demonstrated as the key to providing the
 15 greatest chance for correcting the actions of youth who demonstrate a propensity for
 16 destructive or criminal behavior.

17 (5) The earliest possible venue for addressing the problem begins in the
 18 elementary grades.

19 (6) By intervening at this phase, it is possible to correct potential delinquent
 20 behavior before the changes for correction become insurmountable.

21 * * *

22 Art. 793.3. Reporting; funding; implementation; termination

23 A. No later than June fifteenth of each year, the district attorney shall report
 24 statistical data indicating the effectiveness of the program to the appropriate standing
 25 committees of the legislature for use by the committees in consideration of
 26 expansion of the program.

27 B. The program shall be implemented in three phases as follows:

28 (1) Phase one shall be implemented in grades pre-kindergarten through six.

29 (2) Phase two shall be implemented in grades seven and eight.

30 (3) Phase three shall be implemented in grades nine through twelve.

1 C. All children who enroll in a public school within the Sixteenth Judicial
2 District or the Nineteenth Judicial District in grades pre-kindergarten to sixth shall
3 be required to follow all compulsory attendance requirements in R.S. 17:221 et seq.
4 and all families in need of services provisions in Children's Code Article 726 et seq.

5 D. The implementation of this program may be subject to appropriation of
6 funds by the legislature for such purpose.

7 Art. 793.4. Early intervention fund; fees collected

8 A. In all criminal matters except for matters involving traffic violations in
9 the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Iberia, St. Mary, and St. Martin, there shall be
10 taxed against every defendant who is convicted after trial or after a plea of guilty or
11 nolo contendere or who forfeits his bond, a sum in the amount of twenty-five dollars
12 for each misdemeanor and fifty dollars for each felony, which shall be in addition to
13 all other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed, and which shall be transmitted
14 to the sheriff of the respective parish for further disposition in accordance with the
15 provisions of this Article.

16 B.(1) The sheriff of the respective parish in the Sixteenth Judicial District
17 shall deposit all sums collected or received pursuant to this Article in a separate
18 account to be designated as the Sixteenth Judicial District Attorney Early
19 Intervention Fund.

20 (2) The sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish shall deposit all sums
21 collected or received pursuant to this Article in a separate account to be
22 designated as the Nineteenth Judicial District Attorney Early Intervention
23 Fund.

24 C. The sheriff shall remit on a quarterly basis funds collected in such
25 account to the office of the district attorney of the respective parish.

26 D. The district attorney shall cause to be conducted on an annual basis an
27 audit of the fund and the books and accounts relating thereto and shall file such audit
28 information with the office of the legislative auditor where it shall be available for
29 public inspection.

30 E. In matters involving any court other than the district court, the clerk of

1 court or the appropriate court personnel shall remit the money to the sheriff of the
2 respective parish.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____