

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study and make recommendations concerning the problem of homelessness among persons who have aged out of foster care.

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 168 of this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana creates the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care; and

WHEREAS, as evidence by the passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 168, the legislature has a deep concern for the well-being of our state's young adults who have been in foster care; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has faced challenges in assisting this population since 2013 when funding for the Young Adult Program, which formerly provided financial assistance for housing and education to young adults age eighteen to twenty-one who had aged out of foster care, was eliminated through mid-year budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, national studies have shown that more than one in five former foster youth will become homeless after the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with a foster care history are more likely than other homeless persons to have their own children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, a leading policy institute focused on the well-being of children and youth, indicates that among the greatest of several challenges faced by youth who age out of foster care is achieving housing stability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study and make recommendations concerning the problem of homelessness among persons who have aged out of foster care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department, at the discretion of the secretary, may conduct this study in connection with the work of the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the study, the department shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups with appropriate expertise selected by the secretary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department, at the discretion of the secretary, may include the report within any materials submitted to the legislature by the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES