

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To continue legislative authority for and request completion of a study by the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute relative to continuing contact by parents and other relatives with children who are subjects of child in need of care proceedings as originally provided in House Concurrent Resolution No. 125 of the 2015 Regular Session.

WHEREAS, in House Concurrent Resolution No. 125 of the 2015 Regular Session, referred to hereafter as "HCR No. 125", the legislature called upon the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute to study laws and policies relative to continuing contact by parents and other relatives with children who are subjects of legal proceedings known as "child in need of care proceedings" which are brought by the state to protect children who are abused, neglected, abandoned, or endangered; and

WHEREAS, HCR No. 125 called upon the Children's Code Committee to report to certain legislative committees prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session its recommendations for any changes to laws and policies which would promote the safety and well-being of children who are subjects of child in need of care proceedings; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of filing of this Resolution, the Children's Code Committee has met numerous times to develop the study called for in HCR No. 125, and has formed a special subcommittee to focus exclusively on the subject matter addressed in that instrument; and

WHEREAS, according to an interim report that the Children's Code Committee issued prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session, while the committee has identified several issues and deficiencies under current state laws and policies relative to

continuing contact by parents and other relatives with children who are subjects of child in need of care proceedings, its efforts to complete the report called for in HCR No. 125 are still ongoing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute for making progress in the challenging and momentous task of formulating potential changes to laws and policies which would promote the safety and well-being of our state's most vulnerable children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby continue legislative authority for the study by the Children's Code Committee concerning laws and policies relative to continuing contact by parents and other relatives with children who are subjects of child in need of care proceedings as called for in House Concurrent Resolution No. 125 of the 2015 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that the Children's Code Committee complete the study called for in House Concurrent Resolution No. 125 of the 2015 Regular Session, and report its findings and recommendations for any changes to laws and policies which would promote the safety and well-being of children to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary A no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE