

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

JUVENILES. Requests the Orleans Parish Juvenile Services Financing District be duly appointed by their appointing authorities and thereafter organize itself and create a plan to adequately fund juvenile justice services and requests the City of New Orleans to take urgent action to implement the plan.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the commissioners of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Services
3 Financing District be duly appointed by their appointing authorities and thereafter
4 organize themselves, pursuant to R.S. 13:5951, and prepare a juvenile wrap-around
5 services plan and present that plan to the New Orleans City Council, and to urge and
6 request that the Orleans Parish City Council take urgent action on that plan.

7 WHEREAS, the well-being of the state's children, and particularly those of Orleans
8 Parish, is paramount to the future success of the state of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, the state legislature has created within the parish of Orleans a special
10 district, the Orleans Parish Juvenile Services Financing District, to provide funding for
11 juvenile facilities and services for Orleans Parish; and

12 WHEREAS, the stated goal of the District is to change the status quo for juvenile
13 services in Orleans Parish by providing the means for a permanent, dedicated funding source
14 for these services; and

15 WHEREAS, to date, the commissioners have not fully organized themselves
16 pursuant to the mandates in R.S. 13:1951, to carry out their responsibilities to create the
17 contemplated juvenile services plan; and

18 WHEREAS, the New Orleans City Council is mandated, upon written request of the

1 District to call an election on the question of financing the juvenile services plan; and

2 WHEREAS, children who enter the juvenile justice system should receive
3 appropriate services to treat underlying problems causing their delinquency; and

4 WHEREAS, children who receive treatment pre-adjudication are less likely to re-
5 offend and are better equipped to grow and become successful members of their community;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans has many programs, but most of them are post-
8 adjudication and court-sponsored; and

9 WHEREAS, the citizens of Jefferson Parish approved a ten-year property tax at 3.5
10 mills which expires in 2030 and funds 90 per cent of the juvenile justice programs in
11 Jefferson Parish; and

12 WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans funds its juvenile justice program through
13 federal grants, and state and city appropriations, which creates potential fluctuations in
14 available funding and services for juveniles.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16 does hereby urge and request that the board of commissioners of the Orleans Parish Juvenile
17 Services Financing District be duly appointed by their appointing authorities and thereafter
18 organize themselves and create a comprehensive juvenile services plan, specifying the
19 facilities, programs, and operations of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Courts, family and
20 juvenile counseling, and other wrap-around services proposed, and the alternative,
21 independent, permanent funding requirements to support the plan, as deemed advisable and
22 in the public interest.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana urges
24 and requests that the New Orleans City Council implement its responsibilities pursuant to
25 R.S. 13:5951, which may include placing the plan for funding on the ballot for voter decision
26 at the earliest possible election opportunity.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Whitney Kauffeld.

SR 133 Original	DIGEST 2023 Regular Session	Duplessis
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Requests the Orleans Parish Juvenile Services Financing District to organize themselves and create a plan to fund juvenile justice and requests the city of New Orleans to place the plan on the ballot for funding juvenile justice wrap-around services.