

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATOR BARROW

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Requests the office of juvenile justice to submit a report to the legislature on complaints, investigations, and litigation related to certain facilities housing juveniles.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the office of juvenile justice to submit a report to the legislature on
3 complaints, investigations, and litigation related to certain facilities housing
4 juveniles.

5 WHEREAS, while the juvenile is in state custody, the state has a parental
6 responsibility to the minor child, including providing for educational and mental health
7 needs in order to rehabilitate the child for success upon release; and

8 WHEREAS, over the past few years, there have been several high profile cases
9 involving the office of juvenile justice, including the decision to house juveniles at the
10 Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola and lawsuits regarding the conditions at the Ware
11 Youth Center; and

12 WHEREAS, litigation filed in response to housing juveniles at Angola included
13 claims that office of juvenile justice officials deprived youth of adequate education, exercise
14 and mental health services, restricted access to family, and failed to provide safe drinking
15 water and air conditioning in the juvenile's cells; and

16 WHEREAS, the Ware Youth Center only underwent any formal investigations after
17 the New York Times published an investigative article uncovering allegations of sexual
18 abuse, violence, and psychological torture by staff members; and

1 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the safety and well-being of the juveniles under the
2 supervision and care of the state that complaints, investigations, and litigation against the
3 office of juvenile justice is brought to the attention of legislators before it is publicized by
4 news outlets.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
6 does hereby request the office of juvenile justice to compile and submit a report to the
7 legislature containing the following:

8 (1) All complaints filed against any state-run or contracted secure or non-secure care
9 facility housing juveniles or a juvenile detention facility over the past four years.

10 (2) The status and outcome of any investigations conducted in response to the
11 complaints.

12 (3) The status of any litigation filed against any state-run or contracted secure care
13 or non-secure care facility housing juveniles or a juvenile detention facility over the past
14 four years.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of juvenile justice shall consult with
16 the Department of Children and Family Services and any municipalities, parishes, and
17 juvenile justice districts as necessary to compile the report.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial report shall be submitted to the
19 legislature no later than February 1, 2025, and an updated annual report shall be submitted
20 to the legislature no later than February first of each year.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of the report, the Senate Committee
22 on Judiciary B may hold a public hearing to review the report and exercise oversight of the
23 office of juvenile justice.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 deputy secretary of the office of juvenile justice.

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