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Regular Session, 2003

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVES WINSTON, R. CARTER, DOERGE, DURAND, GUILLORY, ILES, L. JACKSON, M. JACKSON, PERKINS, SCHWEGMANN, SHAW, STRAIN, AND WALKER

COMMUNITY SVSC OFFICE: Creates the Foster Care and Adoption Act

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Foster Care and Management Act to impose a reporting 3 obligation to create greater awareness of the activities of the office of 4 community services within the Department of Social Services relative to its duties in the areas of foster care and adoption. 5 6 WHEREAS, the Foster Care and Adoption Act shall impose upon the 7 office of community services a reporting obligation in order to create more 8 awareness relative to activities of the office in the areas of foster care and 9 adoption; and WHEREAS, the office of community services shall annually compile 10 11 a report detailing its activities in the areas of foster care and adoption and shall 12 compare its results to the activities of the previous year and to a five-year 13 running average; and 14 WHEREAS, the report shall include data for the entire state and for 15 each of the office's regional offices and shall be compiled and published by the 16 end of September for the preceding fiscal year ending on June thirtieth; and WHEREAS, the published report shall be given to the governor, to each 17 18 state senator and state representative, the major daily newspapers, and network

1 television stations in the following cities: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, 2 Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Monroe, and Shreveport; and 3 WHEREAS, the report shall include information on all new or existing programs relative to recruitment of new foster or adoptive homes and all 4 activities intended to improve the rate of placement of children in adoptive 5 6 homes. 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Foster Care and Adoption Management Act to impose 8 9 upon the office of community services a reporting obligation relative to its 10 activities in the areas of foster care and adoption and to create greater 11 awareness by the governor, the legislature, and the public of the activities of 12 the office and its capacity to fulfill its obligations relative to foster care and 13 adoption. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each report shall include complete data on each of the following categories: 15 16 (1) Number of children in state custody as of year end. 17 (2) Number of children taken into state custody. 18 (3) Number of children leaving state custody. 19 (4) Number of children adopted out of state custody. (5) Number of children reunited with birth family out of state custody. 20 21 (6) Number of children leaving foster care due to age. 22 (7) Number of cases in which parental rights were terminated. 23 (8) Number of cases in which termination of rights was by court action. 24 (9) Number of cases in which the office has sought termination of rights by court action. 25 26 (10) Number of cases in which the child has been in state custody for longer than seventeen months where the office has not sought termination of 27

1 rights by court action, when such data becomes available through an automated 2 child welfare tracking system. 3 (11) Number of cases in which adoption is not a part of the plan for the child. 4 5 (12) Number of children freed for adoption and awaiting placement. (13) Average number of months in state custody for all children who 6 7 left custody during the year. (14) New foster care homes opened. 8 9 (15) Foster care homes housing more than four children in state 10 custody. 11 (16) Number of children housed in hospitals or institutions. 12 (17) New foster and adoptive homes opened. 13 (18) Average number of cases assigned to each foster care case 14 manager. (19) Average number of cases assigned to each adoption case manager. 15 16 (20) Number of children entering foster care by reasons for entering 17 foster care. 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for each category of the report, data shall be included for each of the following age groups: 19 (1) Infants (ages 0-1) 20 21 (2) Young children (ages 2-4) 22 (3) Older children (ages 5-9) (4) Preadolescents and adolescents (ages 10-17) 23 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Carmen D. Weisner, assistant secretary of the Louisiana 25 office of community services within the Louisiana Department of Social 26 27 Services.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Winston, et al. HCR No. 74

Creates the Foster Care and Management Act to impose a reporting obligation to create greater awareness of the activities of the office of community services relative to its duties in the areas of foster care and adoption.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution.

- 1. Requires the report to be compiled and published by the end of September for the preceding fiscal year ending on June 30th.
- 2. Adds the number of children entering foster care by reasons therefor to the list of data that the office must compile.