

Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

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

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the office of community services within the Department of Social Services to create a Foster Care and Adoption Management report which shall delineate and compare certain foster care and adoption information.

WHEREAS, the office of community services shall compile an annual Foster Care and Adoption Management report in order to create more awareness relative to activities of the office in the areas of foster care and adoption; and

WHEREAS, the office of community services shall annually compile a report detailing its activities in the areas of foster care and adoption and shall compare its results to the activities of the previous year and to a five-year running average; and

WHEREAS, the report shall include data for the entire state and for each of the office's regional offices and shall be compiled and published by the 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 state senator and state representative, the major daily newspapers, and network television stations in the following cities: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Monroe, and Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the report shall include information on all new or existing programs relative to recruitment of new foster or adoptive homes and all activities intended to improve the rate of placement of children in adoptive homes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the office of community services to annually compile a Foster Care and Adoption Management report detailing its activities in the areas of foster care and adoption and to create greater awareness by the governor, the legislature, and the public of the activities of the office and its capacity to fulfill its obligations relative to foster care and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each report shall include complete data on each of the following categories:

- (1) Number of children in state custody as of year end.
- (2) Number of children taken into state custody.
- (3) Number of children leaving state custody.
- (4) Number of children adopted out of state custody.
- (5) Number of children reunited with birth family out of state custody.
- (6) Number of children leaving foster care due to age.
- (7) Number of cases in which parental rights were terminated.
- (8) Number of cases in which termination of rights was by court action.
- (9) Number of cases in which the office has sought termination of rights by court action.
- (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 rights by court action, when such data becomes available through an automated child welfare tracking system.
- (11) Number of cases in which adoption is not a part of the plan for the child.

- (12) Number of children freed for adoption and awaiting placement.
- (13) Average number of months in state custody for all children who left custody during the year.
- (14) New foster care homes opened.
- (15) Foster care homes housing more than four children in state custody.
- (16) Number of children housed in hospitals or institutions.
- (17) New foster and adoptive homes opened.
- (18) Average number of cases assigned to each foster care case manager.
- (19) Average number of cases assigned to each adoption case manager.
- (20) Number of children entering foster care by reasons for entering foster care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for each category of the report, data shall be included for each of the following age groups:

- (1) Infants (ages 0-1)
- (2) Young children (ages 2-4)
- (3) Older children (ages 5-9)
- (4) Preadolescents and adolescents (ages 10-17)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Carmen D. Weisner, assistant secretary of the Louisiana office of community services within the Louisiana Department of Social Services.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE