SLS 11RS-1285 **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2011

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR MARTINY

WELFARE. Requests the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court to create a Families in Need of Services Commission that will study and issue recommendations regarding the governance, structure, target population, and necessary legislation.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 To urge and request the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court to create a Families in Need of Services Commission that will study and issue recommendations 3 regarding the governance, structure, target population, and necessary legislation for 4 5 a Louisiana Families in Need of Services (FINS) system by submitting a report of its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature thirty days prior to 7 the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature. 8 WHEREAS, Louisiana has provisions in its Children's Code, Title VII, designated 9 "Families In Need of Services" (FINS), designed to help young people in families identified 10 by specific misconduct on the part of the young people and their families so that appropriate 11 services to remedy the family's dysfunction can be secured; and WHEREAS, an "informal process" is included in Title VII which requires each court 12 13 to appoint an intake officer to facilitate the establishment of a voluntary informal family 14 services plan between the family and providers of needed services; and WHEREAS, a body of research, practice, and legislation demonstrates the benefits 15 and successes associated with treating status offenders in immediate, voluntary, and 16 community-based services outside of the juvenile justice system. 17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

1	urge and request the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court to create a Families in
2	Need of Services Commission that will study and issue recommendations for a restructuring
3	of FINS operations to improve access to appropriate services for FINS families throughout
4	Louisiana.
5	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court
6	shall determine the composition of the commission and appoint its members.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court
8	seek input from the Coordinated System of Care Governance Board, including the
9	Department of Education, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department
10	of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth
11	services, and the office of juvenile justice.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission hold its organizational meeting
13	prior to August 1, 2011.
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of its study, the commission shall review
15	nationally recognized state and local model status offender systems and programs in
16	consultation with Louisiana Models for Change, the MacArthur Foundation, and other key
17	stakeholders.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission's study and recommendations
19	shall address, but not be limited to:
20	(1) The identification of the state entity or agency best suited to govern, regulate, and
21	oversee FINS services throughout the state.
22	(2) The refinement of a FINS target population that aligns with both national best
23	practices and the unique needs of Louisiana's youth and families.
24	(3) The inclusion of fundamental components of model status offender programs in
25	the recommended Louisiana system, including, but not limited to:
26	(a) Immediate crisis response mechanisms for youth and families.
27	(b) Screening, assessment, and appropriate referral to or provision of services that
28	are tailored to meet the strengths and challenges of children and families.
29	(c) Referral to or provision of evidence-based services that are community-based,

meaning they are located in, or as close as possible to, the community in which the family

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lives and with which it identifies culturally.

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(d) Referral to or provision of services that are evidence-based, meaning they have been proven by research to work, or, alternatively, that are grounded in the same essential principles as evidence-based programs.

- (4) The implementation of due diligence requirements that schools and other agencies provide that diligent efforts have been made prior to referral, ensuring that referring agencies have attempted all appropriate internal interventions before referring to informal or formal FINS.
- (5) Alternative graduated sanctions and the possible elimination of detention for status offending youth, which have been well-established to expose status offenders to negative peer influences and other harmful circumstances that can often worsen, rather than improve, their behavior.
- (6) The selection of baseline data elements and a data management system to collect and track outcomes, which is essential for both the success and sustainability of reform.
 - (7) Proposed legislation for implementation of commission recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission submit a report of its recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature thirty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

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

DIGEST

Martiny SCR No. 44

Requests the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court to create a Families in Need of Services Commission that will study and issue recommendations regarding the governance, structure, target population, and necessary legislation for a Louisiana Families in Need of Services (FINS) system by submitting a report of its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature thirty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature.