



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

1 lives and with which it identifies culturally.

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

5 (4) The implementation of due diligence requirements that schools and other  
6 agencies provide that diligent efforts have been made prior to referral, ensuring that referring  
7 agencies have attempted all appropriate internal interventions before referring to informal  
8 or formal FINS.

9 (5) Alternative graduated sanctions and the possible elimination of detention for  
10 status offending youth, which have been well-established to expose status offenders to  
11 negative peer influences and other harmful circumstances that can often worsen, rather than  
12 improve, their behavior.

13 (6) The selection of baseline data elements and a data management system to collect  
14 and track outcomes, which is essential for both the success and sustainability of reform.

15 (7) Proposed legislation for implementation of commission recommendations.

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

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

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

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DIGEST

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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.