

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATOR BROOME

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Expresses intent of the Louisiana Legislature regarding the allocation and distribution of juvenile detention facility beds and requests study to evaluate how to ensure adequate access to beds for youth in juvenile detention facilities.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana regarding the allocation and distribution of juvenile detention facility beds, and to recommend that the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission order a study to evaluate how to ensure adequate access to beds for youth in juvenile detention facilities.

WHEREAS, under current state law, parishes and municipalities make decisions locally regarding when to open juvenile detention centers, the rules of operation for such juvenile detention centers, and when and whether to close these juvenile detention centers; and

WHEREAS, the localized nature of such decision-making has created disparities and inequalities in the number of beds available in juvenile detention facilities throughout the state, with some juvenile detention facilities reporting limited access to beds, while other juvenile detention facilities report having beds that go unoccupied; and

WHEREAS, the availability of beds in juvenile detention centers represents a critical part of the continuum of care necessary to ensure that the statewide juvenile justice system operates in an efficient manner that enhances protection of the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses its intent that the state juvenile justice system should provide adequate access to

1 a juvenile detention center bed in close proximity to the young person's community.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests that the
3 Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission order a study of the structure and
4 utilization of juvenile detention centers in Louisiana, in light of national best practices
5 concerning detention standards, with a written report of the findings from the study being
6 submitted to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission recommending
7 how to ensure youth have adequate access to beds in juvenile detention facilities in
8 Louisiana and outlining a comprehensive and unified approach to funding and operating
9 juvenile detention centers statewide.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study's written report shall be submitted to
11 the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission by January 31, 2014.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 Chair of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Julie J. Baxter.

DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 55

Expresses the intent of the Louisiana Legislature regarding the allocation and distribution of juvenile detention facility beds and recommends that the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission order a study to evaluate how to ensure adequate access to beds for youth in juvenile detention facilities.

Requires submission of a written report to the commission by January 31, 2014.