

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOUIE

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes Wednesday, April 6, 2016, as Youth Justice Day

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Wednesday, April 6, 2016, as Louisiana Youth Justice Day at the state capitol.

3 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition,
4 which is a network of organizations and individuals who support a legislative and policy
5 agenda for common sense juvenile reform, will sponsor Louisiana Youth Justice Day; and

6 WHEREAS, on that day, the Coalition, as well as students from Sci Academy,
7 Crescent Leadership Academy, G.W. Carver Preparatory Academy, Cohen College Prep,
8 Joseph S. Clark Preparatory School, Edna Karr High School, and Northside High School,
9 will gather on the steps of the capitol to ask the legislature to raise the age at which a child
10 can be prosecuted as an adult from seventeen to eighteen; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of only nine states that charges all seventeen-year-olds
12 as adults; and

13 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, high school students can be sent to violent adult jails,
14 where such students face a dramatically increased risk of abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, seventeen-year-olds cannot vote, serve on juries, or join
16 the military, but nonetheless can be charged and imprisoned as adults; and

17 WHEREAS, raising the age would protect the rights of parents to be involved in the
18 court cases of their minor children; when seventeen-year-olds are arrested, their parents do
19 not need to be informed of the arrest and do not have a right to be involved in the court
20 process; and

1 WHEREAS, seventeen-year-olds who are arrested end up with an adult arrest record
2 that can prevent them from getting an education and joining the workforce, thus increasing
3 their chances of falling into a cycle of arrest, incarceration, and poverty; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana Youth Justice Day is an opportunity for students to learn a
5 real-life civics lesson about the legislative process, to be civically engaged, and to make the
6 legislature aware of their desire for justice reform; and

7 WHEREAS, the students who participate in Louisiana Youth Justice Day are
8 examples of the kind of informed and active citizenry that is at the very foundation of the
9 American democratic experiment.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April, 6, 2016, as Louisiana Youth Justice
12 Day at the state capitol and also commends the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition for its
13 efforts to promote juvenile justice reform.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
15 to the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 6 Original

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