

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL NO. 107

BY SENATOR WARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Provides relative to at-risk youths and development of an integrated case management system. (8/1/13)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact Chapter 59-A of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 46:2758 through 2758.2, relative to the juvenile justice system and
4 at-risk youths; to provide relative to development of an integrated case management
5 planning system for at-risk youths; to provide for the purposes of such system and
6 the duties and responsibilities of certain entities; to establish certain timelines; to
7 provide terms and conditions; to provide for legislative findings; and to provide for
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Chapter 59-A of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
11 comprised of R.S. 46:2758 through 2758.2, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **§2758. Short Title**

13 **This Part shall be known and may be cited as the "Improved Outcomes**
14 **for At-Risk Youths Act"**.

15 **§2758.1 Legislative findings**

16 **A. The legislature finds that:**

17 **(1) A significant number of youths involved in the juvenile justice system**

1 are in need of mental health services or have experienced involvement in the
2 child welfare system. These youths are often referred to as "crossover youths"
3 as they receive services from multiple agencies.

4 (2) Research has shown that a single, targeted case management system
5 can better track "crossover youths" from system to system, target services to
6 those youths, and assist in lowering recidivism, out of home placements, and
7 potential adult incarceration.

8 (3) In 2011, Louisiana created the Coordinated System of Care to better
9 leverage the dollars flowing into juvenile mental health services for youths with
10 severe disturbances. Opportunities exist and should be pursued for greater
11 collaboration and sharing of information across all systems to benefit such
12 youths.

13 (4) A complete continuum of care for at-risk youths will reduce the
14 number of youths who enter into the juvenile and criminal justice systems,
15 improve access to treatment and rehabilitative services for youths currently
16 involved in the system, and reduce recidivism by:

17 (a) Improving coordination and access to programs focusing on
18 prevention and early intervention.

19 (b) Improving access to treatment, rehabilitation, and educational
20 services to youths currently involved in multiple systems in Louisiana.

21 (c) Developing a mechanism for youths exiting the juvenile justice and
22 child welfare systems to obtain the educational and workforce training
23 necessary to ensure that such youths exit as self-sufficient, productive young
24 adults who are less likely to be reliant on social services or enter the adult
25 correctional system.

26 B. A comprehensive and integrated delivery system of case management
27 for at-risk youths should be developed to ensure that every at-risk youth has
28 access to the appropriate resources to become a self-sufficient and productive
29 adult.

1 **(d) Continuity of education and workforce training.**

2 **(e) Re-introduction into the community.**

3 **(4) Develop mechanisms to leverage available state and federal funds for**
4 **the purposes of this Chapter.**

5 **(5) Establish a timeline for the creation and implementation of the**
6 **integrated case management system providing for such system to be fully**
7 **operational no later than July 1, 2015.**

8 **D. The departments shall submit their recommendations formulated by**
9 **the impacted agencies to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation**
10 **Commission for review and comment by the commission.**

11 **E. Not later than thirty calendar days prior to the convening of the 2014**
12 **regular session of the legislature, the departments shall jointly submit a**
13 **summary report to the legislature discussing actions taken pursuant to this**
14 **Chapter. Such report shall include but not be limited to any recommendations**
15 **for changes in laws or administrative regulations or policies necessary for**
16 **proper implementation of the integrated case management system.**

17 **F. Not later than July 1, 2014, the departments shall jointly submit a**
18 **written report to the legislature outlining the timelines and process by which**
19 **implementation of an integrated case management system for at-risk youths**
20 **shall be completed and the system fully operational no later than July 1, 2015.**

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

DIGEST

Proposed law provides for the Improved Outcomes for At-Risk Youth Act and related legislative findings.

Proposed law creates the Integrated Case Management Planning System as a single, targeted case management system to better track "crossover youths" who are in need of mental health services or have experienced involvement in the child welfare system.

Proposed law provides that the deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correction, Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services shall evaluate programs to be included in the Integrated Case Management System. Further provides that programs and services to be evaluated for

inclusion in the Integrated Case Management System shall include but are not limited to:

- (1) Truancy and Assessment and Service Centers.
- (2) Families in Need of Services.
- (3) The Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, including the Coordinated System of Care.
- (4) Child welfare programs.
- (5) Education and workforce training programs.
- (6) Juvenile probation and parole services.
- (7) Non-secure and secure out-of-home placements.
- (8) Any other program or service identified for inclusion.

Proposed law provides that, in order to facilitate the development of a complete continuum of care for at-risk youths, these departments shall:

- (1) Develop an outline for the creation of and transition to an integrated case management system focusing on the behavioral health, rehabilitative, and educational needs of youths who are at-risk for involvement, currently involved or exiting the juvenile justice and child welfare system.
- (2) Identify the prevalence of youths served by multiple systems.
- (3) Identify opportunities to more efficiently and effectively deliver programs and services to at-risk youths across all systems of care focusing on: prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, continuity of education and workforce training, and re-introduction into the community.
- (4) Develop mechanisms to leverage available state and federal funds for the purposes of proposed law.
- (5) Establish a timeline for the creation and implementation of the integrated case management system providing for such system to be fully operational no later than July 1, 2015.

Proposed law provides that the departments shall submit their recommendations formulated by the impacted agencies to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission for review and comment by the commission.

Proposed law provides that, not later than 30 calendar days prior to the convening of the 2014 regular session of the legislature, the departments shall jointly submit a summary report to the legislature discussing actions taken pursuant to proposed law. Further provides that such report shall include but not be limited to any recommendations for changes in laws or administrative regulations or policies necessary for proper implementation of the integrated case management system.

Proposed law provides that, not later than July 1, 2014, the departments shall jointly submit a written report to the legislature outlining the timelines and process by which implementation of an integrated case management system for at-risk youths shall be completed and the system fully operational not later than July 1, 2015.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 46:2758 – 2758.2)