

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to evaluate Louisiana's progress toward achieving juvenile justice reform as it relates to the "Missouri Model" and to report its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature as to additional steps necessary to further pursue a system of juvenile justice similar to that of the "Missouri Model".

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has recognized the need for intervention in the lives of juvenile offenders to provide them with the opportunity to lead successful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, juvenile justice experts across the nation have recognized that Missouri's approach, known as the "Missouri Model", provides services to juveniles in small, community-based settings; and

WHEREAS, the "Missouri Model" continues to be viewed as one of the premier models for juvenile justice in the country and boasts one of the lowest recidivism rates in the country; and

WHEREAS, the success of the "Missouri Model" and other similar systems of juvenile justice requires a combined, systematic approach with the three branches of government collaborating to ensure the integrity and success of the program which emphasizes individualized rehabilitation in small group, community-based settings; and

WHEREAS, Act No.1225 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature and Act No. 555 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature initiated a statewide reform of Louisiana's juvenile justice system in an attempt to achieve the same successes achieved by the "Missouri Model"; and

WHEREAS, seven years later, there is a continuing need to evaluate and revise Louisiana's juvenile justice system to ensure that all necessary and nationally-recognized systems and procedures are in place to ensure the well-being of the juvenile and the safety of the general public; and

WHEREAS, in conducting this evaluation, it is necessary that the Louisiana State

Law Institute appoint and convene a task force composed of representatives of each of the following: the juvenile drug court community; the Louisiana District Judges Association; the Louisiana Supreme Court; the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association; the Juvenile Justice Implementation Committee; the Legislature of Louisiana; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the Louisiana Public Defenders Board; the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana; the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the office of juvenile justice, and the division of probation and parole; the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; the Department of Education; the Department of Social Services; the Department of Health and Hospitals; the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice; the Southern Poverty Law Center; each of the MacArthur Foundation - Models for Change sites located in Louisiana; the Children's Code Advisory Committee and the Criminal Code and Procedure Advisory Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute; and any other entity concerned with the well-being of children and the juvenile justice system in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate Louisiana's progress toward achieving juvenile justice reform as it relates to the "Missouri Model" and to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana as to additional steps necessary to further pursue a system of juvenile justice similar to that of the "Missouri Model".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES